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- नरेन्द्र मोदी

Haryana's Inclusive Budget (2025-26): Committed to Agri-Sector A Reflection of Farmers' Welfare and Agricultural Priorities

Visionary policies in the Farmers' Welfare

Target of land for natural farming increased from 25,000 acre to 1 lakh acre

Subsidy on buying Desi cow increased from ₹ 25,000 to ₹ 30,000

Subsidy to farmers managing paddy straw increased from ₹ 1000 per acre to ₹ 1200 per acre

Subsidy to farmers giving up paddy cultivation under Mera Pani-Meri Virasat Yojana increased from ₹ 7000 per acre to ₹ 8000 per acre

The benefit of the scheme, previously available to farmers practicing natural farming on 2 acre of land, is now available for 1 acre

Subsidy on direct sowing of paddy increased from ₹ 4000 per acre to ₹ 4500 per acre

Target of reviving saline/salt-affected soil increased from 62,000 acre to 1 lakh acre

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RAMNATH GOENKA EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM AWARDS

If citizens not well informed, democratic processes lose meaning, says President

THE WINNERS

Print/Digital

Hindi
Mridulika Jha, *Aaj Tak*
Regional Languages
Jisha Elizabeth,
Madhyamam

Environment,
Science and Technology
Reporting
Sibu Kumar Tripathi,
India Today

Uncovering India Invisible
Satyasundar Barik,
The Hindu

Business & Economic
Journalism

Twesh Mishra,
The Economic Times

Reporting on Politics
And Government

Maitri Porecha, *The Hindu*

Sports Journalism
Shahab Ali & Amarnath
Kashyap, *Hindustan*

Investigative Reporting

Nihal AP Koshie,
Mahender Singh Manral&
Mihir Vasava,
The Indian Express

Feature Writing
Shubhajit Roy,
The Indian Express

Foreign Correspondent
Covering India

Nilesh Christopher,
Rest of World

Prakash Kardaley
Memorial Award for
Civic Journalism

Jeet Mashru & Somita Pal,
Hindustan Times

Photo Journalism

P Ravikumar,
The New Indian Express

Books (Non-Fiction)

A R Venkatachalapathy,
Penguin Random House

Broadcast/Digital

Hindi
Siddhant Mohan,
The Lallantop

Environment, Science
& Technology

Joel Michael & Rohini
Krishnamurthy,
Down To Earth

Uncovering India Invisible
Vishnukant Tiwari &
Athar Rather, *The Quint*

Sports Journalism

Tejas Vaidya & Enakshi
Rajvanshi, *BBC Hindi*

Regional Languages
Mandar Gonjari,
ABP Majha

Politics and Government
Ashutosh Mishra,
India Today TV

Investigative Reporting

Anurag Dwyer, *NDTV*



Winners of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards for 2023 with President Droupadi Murmu, The Indian Express Group Chairman and Managing Director Viveck Goenka, Executive Director Anant Goenka, CEO George Varghese, jury members Rohini Nilekani, Justice BN Srikrishna (retd) and Professor K G Suresh in New Delhi on Wednesday. Renuka Puri

News media plays vital role in state, all of us have stakes in health of this sector: Murmu

DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

EMPHASISING THAT the importance of free and fair journalism for democracy cannot be overestimated, President Droupadi Murmu said Wednesday that "if citizens are not well informed, democratic processes lose their very meaning".

Delivering the keynote address as Chief Guest while presenting the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards for work done in 2023, the President said, "These awards recognise and celebrate the best of our journalism. With this, we also honour the legacy of Ramnath Goenka, the founder of



President Droupadi Murmu speaks at the event. Renuka Puri



the Indian Express group, and a great icon of Indian media. He stood up for the freedom of press before Independence as well as after Independence. His newspaper refused to buckle during the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Associate Partners

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NASA astronaut Sunita Williams onboard the SpaceX recovery ship MEGAN off the coast of Tallahassee, Florida, Tuesday. NASA

da Cunha/AB/1012

began with a bungled test flight more than nine months ago.

Their SpaceX capsule parachuted into the Gulf of Mexico in the early evening, just hours after

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORTS
PAGE 13

Manipur to deepfakes, oil spill: A celebration of good journalism

DEVANSH MITTAL
& UDBHAV SETH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

IF JOURNALISM is both about stories that are in the headlines and stories that become headlines, the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards on Wednesday was a celebration of just that — the ability to pursue a story and stay on it.

On Wednesday, President Droupadi Murmu, who graced the function as Chief Guest, gave away the nation's most prestigious journalism awards that showcased 20 outstanding contributions from print, digital and broadcast journalists across categories, including investigative journalism, sports, politics and government, books, feature writing and regional languages.

From good old-fashioned

ground reporting to breaking new ground with advanced technologies, winners used a variety of methods to dig deeper into stories that needed telling.

Among the winners was Nilesh Christopher, who won the award in the Foreign Correspondent Covering India category.

His report for *Rest of World* focused on the social impact of one of the biggest talking points — AI

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Punjab govt clears sites of year-long farmer protest, detains top leaders

KANCHAN VASDEV & RAKHI JAGGA
CHANDIGARH, LUDHIANA, MARCH 19

PUNJAB POLICE started clearing the Shambhu and Khanauri border sites where farmer protests have been on since February last year on Wednesday evening with



Jagjit Singh Dallewal (left);
Sarwan Singh Pandher

the two leaders spearheading the stir detained earlier in the day.

Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) leader Sarwan Singh Pandher and Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non Political) leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal were detained while they were on their way back to Shambhu and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORT, PAGE 13

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Stand by...
CM focusing...

Global health philanthropist Bill Gates is guest at Express Adda in Mumbai today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

IN AN era where technology shapes our conversations and Big Tech wields unprecedented political influence in the US, what lies ahead? How will the deepening connections between Silicon Valley and Washington, D.C., reshape the global landscape? Meanwhile, Trump's trade wars have unsettled markets, and the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, Wednesday. PTI



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Har Pal Aapke Saath

₹3-lakh cr Telangana Budget focuses on welfare schemes

NIKHILA HENRY & RAHUL
V PISHARODY
HYDERABAD, MARCH 19

WITH A total expenditure of ₹3.04 lakh crore, the Telangana Budget Wednesday focused mainly on welfare, even as the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the financial year 2024-25 was at 10.1 percent when compared to the national GDP growth rate of 9.9 percent. The per capita income growth rate in the state was at 9.6 percent, for the same period, when compared to the country's per capita income growth rate of 8.8 percent.

The state's Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka presented the 2025-06 budget with a revenue expenditure of ₹2.26 lakh crore and capital expenditure of ₹36,504 crore. The finance minister said that this was the first time for the budget to cross ₹3 lakh crore mark. He said: "Clearly Telangana's per capita income is higher by 1.8 times i.e., ₹1,74,172. Reflecting the state's strong economic progress".

This was the finance minister's third Budget presentation.

The chunk of the budget was proposed to be spent on welfare departments in the state, including the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes departments. In total, these departments were allocated ₹2,397 crore. Of this, ₹4,232



Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy (right) with Deputy CM and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka. PTI

crore was allocated to SC Welfare, followed by ₹1,716 crore to ST Welfare while the BC Welfare department was allocated ₹1,405 crore and the Minorities welfare department was allocated ₹3,591 crore.

Vikramarka said: "In the 2025-26 financial year, we are not only allocating the required budget but also releasing the funds pending from 2023-24. Respecting the laws made for the SC/ST communities and ensuring they receive their rightful funds is a testament to our government's genuine commitment to their welfare."

The state's budget was also pushed for welfare schemes focusing on Panchayat Raj and Rural Development and Agriculture departments. Additionally, ₹31,605 crore was allocated to Panchayat Raj and Rural

Development department, ₹24,439 crore to Agriculture, ₹23,373 crore for Irrigation, ₹23,108 crore for Education, ₹21,221 crore for Energy, and ₹17,677 crore for Municipal Administration and ₹12,393 crore towards the Health and Family Welfare department. Vikramarka said: "Government initiatives such as free electricity, Rythu Bharosa, farm loan waivers, and investments in irrigation projects have boosted farmers' confidence and strengthened the agricultural sector... Standing by our commitment to farmers' welfare, our government has waived farm loans up to ₹2 lakh. So far, ₹20,616.89 crore worth of loans have been waived for 25.35 lakh farmers. This decisive action has cleared the loans of farmers, enabling them to access new agricultural loans with ease."

The government has also allocated ₹5,907 crore to roads and buildings department and ₹5,734 crore towards Civil Supplies department. The government has proposed to spend ₹3,527 crore towards the industries department. "To promote inclusive industrial growth, the government has decided to allocate 5 percent of plots in new industrial parks to women entrepreneurs and 15 percent to SC/ST entrepreneurs.

Additionally, ₹3/ST entrepreneurs will receive a land cost subsidy of up to 50%, subject to a maximum limit of ₹50 lakh, to encourage their participation in the industrial sector," Vikramarka said.

ED attaches properties worth ₹50 lakh in HCA fund misuse case

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD MARCH 19

THE DIRECTORATE of Enforcement, Hyderabad Zonal Office, has provisionally attached immovable property worth ₹51.29 lakh in a case of alleged misappropriation of funds of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) by its office bearers in the purchase of cricket balls, chairs, and gymnasium equipment. A second order on March 13, 2025, directed Dr Sharma to vacate the IIM Rohtak campus.

On Wednesday, Dr Sharma's counsel argued before HC that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the institute's internal auditors had already examined the financial records and found no wrongdoing. The counsel further pointed out that Section (10A) of the IIM Act, which was used to order the inquiry, came into force on August 16, 2023, and could not be applied retrospectively to events before that.

Meanwhile, appearing for Union of India, Additional Solicitor General Satya Pal Jain argued that the Visitor of the institute (IIM Rohtak) has the right to mark an inquiry any number of times and with the inquiry is valid, it is not going to prejudice the rights of the petitioner. The High Court bench of Justice Vinod S. Bhardwaj heard the arguments and adjourned the matter for further hearing on Thursday.

The ED investigation suggests that as quid pro quo, one of the firms transferred ₹17 lakh to a proprietorship firm of the ex-VP's wife as well in the personal bank account of his son by layering the same through the bank accounts of several entities.

A show-cause notice was issued to Dr Sharma over the non-submission of his Bachelor's degree. He challenged this in court, and the High Court granted him interim protection in April 2022, which was later extended in February 2025.

Despite this protection, the government issued an inquiry order on March 5, 2025, citing financial irregularities and non-submission of academic credentials. A second order on March 13, 2025, directed Dr Sharma to vacate the IIM Rohtak campus.

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One dead as fresh violence hits Churachandpur dist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IMPHAL, MARCH 19

FRESH CLASHES erupted in Manipur's Kuki-Zo dominated Churachandpur district after a Hmar community leader was allegedly assaulted by miscreants Monday. The authorities had imposed prohibitory orders. Security forces used tear gas and also fired live rounds in the air even as a mob vandalised property.

On Wednesday, the Zomi Students' Federation called for suspension of all activities until the situation improves in Churachandpur.

The six Kuki-Zo legislators of the district also issued a joint statement and appealed to maintain peace in the district.

declared dead. The deceased has been identified as Lalropui Pakhumate. Tensions prevailed in Churachandpur district after a Hmar community leader was allegedly assaulted by miscreants Monday. The authorities had imposed prohibitory orders. Security forces used tear gas and also fired live rounds in the air even as a mob vandalised property.

On Wednesday, the Zomi Students' Federation called for suspension of all activities until the situation improves in Churachandpur.

The six Kuki-Zo legislators of the district also issued a joint statement and appealed to maintain peace in the district.

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FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON
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'If citizens not well informed, democratic processes lose meaning'

Emergency. The blank editorial it published became a telling symbol of a free press as well as a sign of hope for the restoration of democratic rights."

Murmu also said that the news media "plays a vital role in a modern state". "As such, all of us have stakes in the health of this sector," she said.

The 19th edition of the awards honoured 27 journalists across print and digital formats in 13 categories, including investigative journalism, sports, politics and government, books, feature writing and regional languages.

Underlining that a "thriving newsroom full of ideas is essential for the business of news", Murmu said it was "satisfying to know that *The Indian Express* has a vibrant newsroom with a research team". "I also feel that news gathering, which is the soul of journalism, must be strengthened. You need to devote more resources in encouraging the culture of reporting from the ground. You cannot do that unless you have a viable business model for sustenance," she said.

Stating that "there are only a limited number of sources of funding the world over — the state or the corporate entities or the reader", the President said

"the first two have their own advantages and limitations". "The third option of keeping the reader at the centre is the most preferable option. It has only one limitation: sustaining that model seems difficult," she said.

"I believe that profitability on one hand and responsibility to the reader are not mutually exclusive; indeed, they can be complementary," Murmu said.

On the issue of content creation, the President expressed hope that a stage will soon be reached "when malicious content will be weeded out, and the so-called post-truth will go out of currency". She added that technological tools are also being applied to that end and the process can be hastened with pro-active campaigns to educate citizens about these pitfalls.

Noting with concern the hazard of deep fakes and other misuses of artificial intelligence, the President said, "Machines have already started compiling and editing reports. The day might not be far when they would be able to carry out most of the work of journalists. What they lack, however, is empathy, which will be the one ingredient that can help journalists beat AI. Journalism based on human values is not going to be extinct ever."

Among those present on the occasion were Union Ministers Sarbananda Sonowal and Chirag Paswan, and Union MoS SS Singh Baghel; Parliamentarians across party lines such as Ravi Shankar Prasad, Anil Baluni, Manoj Tiwari and Kamalnayak Prasad Tasa (BJP); Karti Chidambaram and Rajiv Shukla (Congress); Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena - UBT); Manoj Kumar Jha (RJD); Javed Ali Khan (SP); John Brittas (CPM); Derek O'Brien (TMC); Swati Malaviya (AAP); Sanjay Jha (JDU); GVK Vasavada (Tamil Nadu Congress); and Chandrasekhar Azad.

Also present were CPI leader D Raja; Congress's Praveen Chakravarthy and former Union minister Ashwani Kumar; Ministry of External Affairs Official Spokesperson and Additional Secretary (XP) Randhir Jaiswal; German Ambassador Philip Ackermann; and, Press Information Bureau Principal Director-General Dhirendra Ojha.

Speaking on the occasion,

Vivek Goenka, Chairman and Managing Director of The Indian Express Group, said, "It's a full 20 years since the first edition of these awards... we are once again debating, the world over, the strains and stresses in a democ-

racy and the role of the press... But Ramnathji knew, nine decades ago, by instinct and insight, that it was the free press, the right of citizens to search for truth, to ask questions of those in power, to hold a mirror to ourselves, that lies at the heart of the compact between a democratic state and the people. More importantly, he had an unshakable belief that the press can do this only if it has a protective shield."

That shield, Goenka said, is ensured not just by individual courage but also "institutional commitment". He defined that as the hard work needed to invest in a newsroom and its talent. "Today, even in the United States, where a free press is a Constitutional guarantee... we witness how this basic right is being eroded even in some of the most hallowed of newsrooms. Partisanship and cynicism shrink journalism," he said.

Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, presented a memento to President Murmu — a portrait of her made by *The Indian Express* illustrator Suvaajit Dey.

Raj Kamal Jha, Chief Editor, *The Indian Express*, said, "Of the winners, more than half, 13 were in school when these awards

started; one was six years old, one was nine, two were 11. I mention this to make a point: for all the obituaries of journalism we read these days, many beautifully written, there will always be schoolkids who know better."

He said, "In fact, this year's application pool was the most competitive ever — a record 1,500 nominations from 75 newsrooms. We are sure, next year will be more. Because, as Your Excellency said in a speech in Dhanbad eight years ago about the power of faith, like warm clothes in winter, footwell in summer, a shelter in the rain." These protections also remain an imperative of journalism, he said.

The jury for this edition of the awards included Justice B N Srikrishna, former judge at the Supreme Court; Prof Raj Kumar, founding Vice Chancellor, OP Jindal Global University; Prof KG Suresh, former Vice Chancellor, Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism & Communication and former Director General, Indian Institute of Mass Communication; Rohini Nilekani, Chairperson, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies and Co Founder & Director, EkStep; and Dr S Y Quraishi, former Chief Election Commissioner.

• Splashdown after nine months: Sunita Williams, Butch Wilmore are back

when US President Donald Trump asked SpaceX founder Elon Musk to accelerate the astronauts' return and blamed the delay on the Biden administration.

Within an hour, the astronauts were out of their capsule, waving and smiling at the cameras while being hustled away in reclining stretchers for routine medical checks.

It all started with a flawed

Boeing test flight last spring.

The two expected to be gone just a week or so after launching on Boeing's new Starliner crew capsule on June 5. So many problems cropped up on the way to the space station that NASA eventually sent Starliner back empty and transferred the test pilots to SpaceX, pushing their homecoming into February. Then SpaceX capsule issues added another month's delay.

Sunday's arrival of their relief crew meant Williams and Wilmore could finally leave. NASA cut them loose a little early, given the iffy weather forecast later this week. They checked out with NASA's Nick Hague and Russia's Alexander Gorbunov, who arrived in their own SpaceX capsule last fall with two empty seats reserved for the Starliner.

Wilmore and Williams ended up spending 286 days in space — 278 days longer than anticipated when they launched. They circled Earth 4,576 times and traveled 121 million miles (195 million kilometers) by the time of splashdown.

"This has been nine months in the making, and I couldn't be prouder of our team's versatility, our team's ability to adapt and really build for the future of human spaceflight," NASA's commercial crew program manager Steve Stich said.

With Starliner still under engineering investigation, SpaceX will launch the next crew for NASA as soon as July. Stich said NASA will have until summer to decide whether the crew after that one will be flown by SpaceX or Boeing — or whether Boeing will have to prove itself by flying cargo before people again.

Both retired Navy captains, Wilmore and Williams stressed they didn't mind spending more time in space — a prolonged deployment reminiscent of their military days. But they acknowledged it was tough on their families.

Wilmore, 62, missed most of his younger daughter's senior year of high school; his older daughter is in college. Williams, 59, had to settle for Internet calls from space to her husband, mother and other relatives.

"We have not been worried about her because she has been in good spirits," said Falguni Pandya, who is married to Williams's cousin. "She was definitely ready to come home."

Prayers for Williams and Wilmore were offered up at 21 temples in the US in the months leading up to their return, said organizer Tejal Shah, president of World Hindu Council of America. Williams has spoken frequently about her Indian and Slovenian heritage. Prayers for their safe return also came from Wilmore's Baptist church in Houston, where he serves as an elder.

Crowds in Jhulanas, the ancestral home of Williams' father, danced and celebrated in a temple and performed rituals during the homecoming. —AP

• Bill Gates is guest at Express Adda in Mumbai today

trajectory of AI remains uncertain.

In short, unpredictability is the new norm. And who better than Bill Gates — the original tech visionary — to help us navigate this turbulence, and tell us about what we should truly be concerned or unconcerned about.

Gates, the Microsoft co-founder-turned-global health philanthropist, will be the guest at Express Adda in Mumbai on Thursday. He will be in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group.

This is Gates's third visit to India in three years. He will also discuss his new book, *Source Code: My Beginnings*, which traces his childhood, his early vision for the future, and his passion for new ideas.

The man who brought computers into people's homes sees artificial intelligence as the second major technological revolution, the first being the graphical user interface that paved the way for

modern operating systems.

Gates, specifically, sees AI as a game-changer in healthcare, capable of bridging critical gaps — from helping health workers screen for diseases in remote areas to fast-tracking groundbreaking research. And when it comes to India, he believes the country is at the forefront of innovation. On his website, he writes that India is a place where "big challenges meet even bigger ambitions, and where innovation is transforming lives at an incredible scale".

He highlights India's remarkable achievements in public health — from eradicating polio and preventing HIV to expanding childhood immunisation. Now, with cutting-edge diagnostics and AI-powered tools, the country is accelerating efforts to eliminate tuberculosis.

But India's influence extends beyond healthcare. Gates sees it as a global leader in digital transformation, pointing to innovations like Aadhaar and the digital

payments system as examples of how technology is reshaping everyday life on an unprecedented scale.

Since stepping down from Microsoft's board in 2020, Gates has dedicated himself fully to philanthropy. In India, the Gates Foundation has been working on public health, particularly maternal and newborn health, immunisation, sanitation, agriculture and the girl child in collaboration with the government, businesses and other organisations.

Express Adda is a series of informal interactions with newsmakers in the presence of a select audience. Guests have included Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, actors Pankaj Tripathi and Tabu, oncologist and writer Siddhartha Mukherjee, musician T M Krishna, ecologist Romulus Whitaker and writer William Dalrymple.

But India's influence extends beyond the recovery ship. Once safely on board, the side hatch was opened and the astronauts were helped out, one by one. Williams was next-to-last out, followed by Wilmore who gave two gloved thumbs-up.

Wilmore and Williams's plight captured the world's attention, giving new meaning to the phrase "stuck at work" and turning "Butch and Suni" into household names. While other astronauts had logged longer spaceflights over the decades, none had to deal with so much uncertainty or see the length of their mission expand by so much.

Williams quickly transitioned from guests to full-fledged station crew members, conducting experiments, fixing equipment and even spacewalking together. With 62 hours over nine spacewalks, Williams set a record: the most time spent spacewalking over a career among female astronauts.

Saying they were all confused, a farmer at the Khanauli protest site told

TOOK RS 7-CR BRIBE TO 'WAIVE OFF PENALTY' ON BEL: ACB

Former minister Jain booked in CCTV project corruption case

BJP's Sachdeva targets AAP, former CM Atishi alleges 'political witch-hunt'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

THE DELHI government's Anti Corruption Branch (ACB) Wednesday booked former PWD Minister and AAP leader Satyendar Jain over alleged corruption in a Rs 571-crore CCTV project. Officials said he allegedly accepted a bribe of Rs 7 crore to waive off the liquidated damages (LD) penalty of Rs 16 crore imposed on Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) which was installing CCTVs in the Capital.

"During the course of verification at ACB, an officer of BEL, well-versed with the facts of the case, was examined. The officer supported these allegations and provided a detailed complaint in the instant matter," Madhur Verma, Joint Commissioner of Police, ACB, said. BEL representatives could not be reached for comment.

A political tussle has erupted in the aftermath of the case. While senior AAP leader Atishi called it a case of "political witch-hunt", Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the previous government led by Arvind Kejriwal covered up the corruption case for years. The BJP is now in power in the Capital.

In August 2019, the Delhi



Satyendar Jain was the PWD minister in the previous AAP govt. File

the ACB, stated that apart from the charges being waived, BEL was awarded a subsequent contract to install an additional 1.4 lakh CCTVs. Jain, in his capacity as minister, allegedly received a bribe of Rs 7 crore through the contractors responsible for installing the additional 1.4 lakh CCTVs. "The bribe payments were made through different vendors by artificially enhancing the order values placed with these vendors. The relevant documents are being obtained from the PWD and BEL and are being scrutinised," said Verma.

Based on the findings, the ACB registered an FIR under sections 7 and 13 (1) (a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, against Jain.

In 2022, the ED had arrested Jain in a money-laundering case. He was granted bail in October 2024. In a post on X, former Delhi chief minister Atishi said: "When investigating agencies leave their work and start political witch-hunting on the orders of the boss..."

She also shared a document highlighting a reply by the BJP-led Central government in Parliament, which claimed that out of the 193 cases filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against political leaders in the past 10 years, only two resulted

in convictions.

In a video post on X, Sachdeva alleged: "In 2017-18, the Kejriwal government awarded a contract of Rs 571 crore to Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for installing CCTV cameras in Delhi. Due to delays, a penalty of Rs 16 crore was imposed in 2019 but Satyendar Jain waived it after taking Rs 7 crore bribe. The ACB completed its investigation in 2023 but the FIR was delayed due to AAP's cover-up act."

Increasing CCTV coverage for the city was among the biggest poll promises made by the AAP in its 2014-15 election manifesto.

In 2018, installation of CCTV cameras in the Capital became a flashpoint between the then Kejriwal government and then L-G Anil Baijal.

Baijal had constituted a panel to draft an SOP concerning CCTVs after then Delhi Congress chief Ajay Maken alleged irregularities in the AAP government's tendering process relating to the supply and commissioning of cameras. The move invoked a sharp reaction from the AAP, which accused the L-G of "politicising" safety of citizens. AAP chief Kejriwal and his MLAs also staged a dharna outside Raj Niwas over the issue.

ENTRY-LEVEL ADMISSIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Of 6.4 K seats, 5.1 K vacant after computerised draw of lots

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

A SIGNIFICANT number of seats remained vacant after the computerised draw of lots was conducted for admissions under the children with special needs (CWSN) category at private unaided recognised schools. The process was conducted by the

Directorate of Education Wednesday for entry-level classes.

Of around 6,400 available seats, around 5,100 remained vacant, while around 1,300 seats were allocated.

A total of 689 candidates were allotted seats at nursery or pre-school level, leaving 3,357 seats vacant. While 226 candidates secured seats at kindergarten or pre-primary level, 958 remained va-

cant. For Class I, 1,392 candidates were allotted seats with 2,156 seats still vacant.

Earlier, the Education Department had postponed the computerised draw of lots for CWSN admissions from the first week of March to Wednesday due to an inadequate number of applicants, as cited in a department circular.

A senior official in the

Education Department said, "The issue of high vacancies for CWSN categories always comes up. There is a mandatory 3% reservation but the number of applicants remains very low."

Meanwhile, a circular issued by the private school branch on Wednesday stated the guidelines for verification of documents for admission of successful candidates.

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BADRINATH Date of 'Kapaat' (कपाट) Opening: 4th May, 2025

SHRI HEMKUND SAHIB Date of 'Kapaat' (कपाट) Opening: 25th May, 2025

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GTB NAGAR, DELHI

25 MAR, 8 AM

Agartala | Agra | Ahmedabad | Aizawl | Ajmer | Aligarh | Amritsar | Ayodhya | Bareilly | Bathinda | Bengaluru | Bhilai | Bhopal | Bhubaneswar | Bikaner | Bilaspur | Chandigarh | Chennai | Chhattarpur | Chhattarpatti Sambhaji Nagar | Coimbatore | Cuttack | Dehradun | Delhi | Dhanbad | Dharamshala | Dharwad | Durgapur | Faridabad | Gangtok | Gaya | Ghaziabad | Gorakhpur | Gurugram | Guwahati | Gwalior | Haldwani | Haridwar | Hazaribagh | Hisar | Hyderabad | Imphal | Indore | Itanagar | Jabalpur | Jaipur | Jalandhar | Jammu | Jamshedpur | Jhansi | Jodhpur | Kanpur | Kochi | Kohima | Kolkata | Kota | Kozhikode | Kurukshestra | Leh | Lucknow | Ludhiana | Madurai | Mandi | Meerut | Moradabad | Mumbai | Muzaffarpur | Mysuru | Nagpur | Nashik | Navi Mumbai | Noida | Orai | Panaji | Panipat | Patiala | Patna | Prayagraj | Puducherry | Pune | Raipur | Rajkot | Ranchi | Rohtak | Roorkee | Sambalpur | Shillong | Shimla | Siliguri | Srinagar | Surat | Thane | Thiruvananthapuram | Tiruchirappalli | Tirupati | Udaipur | Vadodara | Varanasi | Vijayawada | Visakhapatnam | Warangal

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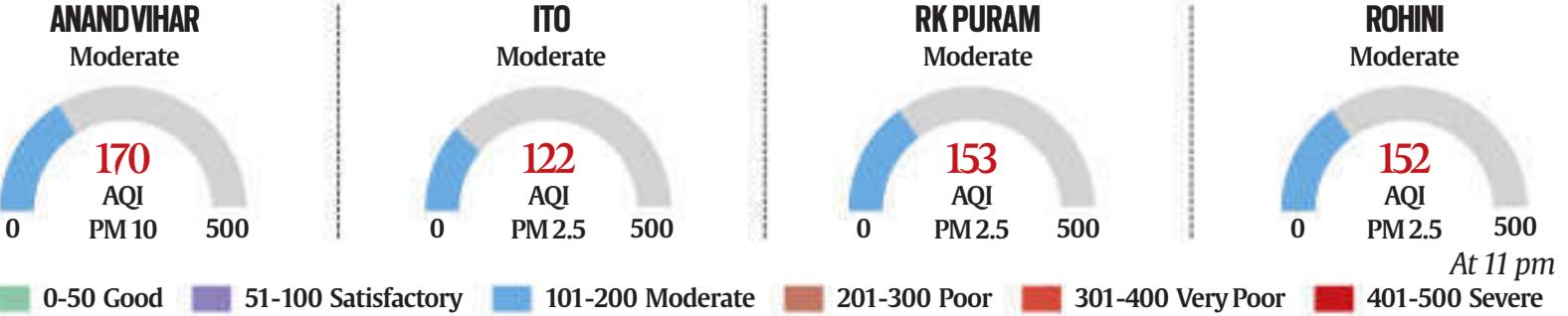
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S K Y W A T C H
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MIN: 16-18 °C above normal

TRANSPORT DEPT TO RVSFs

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There are around 12 Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities authorised by the Transport Department. Archive

IGIA waste 'illegally dumped' near flight path creates safety risk, govt sounds alarm

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

UNTREATED WASTE from the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) is being dumped at Rangpuri Pahari in Vasant Kunj, which falls in the line of sight of aircraft landing, the Delhi government has informed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), flagging safety risks and the alleged involvement of unauthorised vendors and illegal immigrants.

Two separate letters were written by the District Magistrate (DM) of New Delhi earlier this month, days after a conditional order was issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Vasant Vihar) to the MCD, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), and the Forest Department, asking them to prevent the illegal dumping of waste.

In one of his letters sent to the MCD, Najafgarh Zone, on

March 10, the DM said the issue of illegal dumping of waste at Rangpuri Pahari has severe consequences, including aircraft accidents, health hazards, and national security threats. "We have received complaints from Delhi International Airport Limited regarding the illegal dumping of waste at Rangpuri Pahari, which falls under the line of sight of aircraft landing," the DM said in his letter.

The government has sought a checkpost set up by the civic body and the Delhi Police to prevent the entry of unauthorised vehicles transporting such waste, impound illegal trucks engaged in such operations, and initiate strict action against unauthorised vendors and private landowners who have rented their land for illegal dumping.

Following the conditional order, a joint site inspection was conducted by the DM, New Delhi, along with the Deputy Conservator of Forests, representatives of MCD, Najafgarh

Zone, and the DDA on March 8, which revealed "mass-scale illegal dumping by trucks", according to officials.

"During the inspection, it was also noticed that untreated waste generated out of IGIA, especially connected with the airlines, was also found to be, allegedly being dumped at Rangpuri Pahari," the letter said.

The DM also said that the Aerocity area, which has commercial installations such as hotels and restaurants, was being inspected to review waste management.

"During the inspection, it was noticed that the waste generated in the Aerocity area is also not being disposed of as per the prescribed norms", especially the segregation at source is not being conformed with and there is likelihood that such waste being unscientifically dumped in unauthorised manner which may equally pose a significant danger to public health and safety," the DM said in his communication to the municipal

corporation.

A copy of the letter has been sent to the Revenue Department, the CEO of DIAL, and Delhi Police.

"... Needless to mention, there is a strong possibility of solid waste being generated out of commercial operations of hotels, malls, and health units in Mahipalpur and surrounding areas as well as of bordering Gurgaon which are unlawfully being dumped in Rangpuri Pahari area. During the inspection, the inspection team had detected waste with tags of hotels and commercial establishments being dumped in the Rangpuri Pahari area," the letter said.

The DM said they have learnt that unauthorised vendors were involved in transporting the waste and the dumping. "As per reports of local agencies, there is a strong likelihood of some illegal immigrants allegedly being involved in the conduct of this entire unlawful activity of waste dumping and subsidiary activities," the DM said.

Parents of man accused of killing wife in UK sent to police custody

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

A DELHI court Wednesday sent the parents of Pankaj Lamba, the main accused in the murder case of his wife Harshita Brella, who was killed in London last year, to a day in police custody.

Lamba's parents were arrested in connection with a case of cruelty and dowry on a complaint lodged by Harshita's family. Police requested the Dwarka court for custody of Lamba's father Darshan Singh and his mother Sunil to ascertain his whereabouts. Lamba, the key suspect in the case, is yet to be found. Police have issued a Look Out Circular against him and initiated proceedings to declare him a proclaimed offender.

Minutes before her death, Anita Sharma had sent a message to her brother Amit on Sunday. "She sent the (suicide) note and a message to me at around 1.30 pm on Sunday, and then I alerted her husband," said Amit. "I love you bhai. Please forgive me and take care of everyone" – her last message read.

According to police, the incident took place at 1.30 pm on Sunday when the woman's husband, a practising doctor, and their four-year-old son were not home.

Abhishek Shrivastava, ACP, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, said police recovered a one-and-a-half-page suicide note from the spot. "The woman was declared dead at the hospital following which police were alerted. We also found a suicide note," the ACP said.

Plea for steps to curb bird hits at airport: HC seeks govt reply

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

THE DELHI High Court on Wednesday sought a response from the Centre and others on a PIL seeking immediate measures to prevent bird-aircraft strikes and implement a bird avoidance model at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA).

A division bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Ran Gedela sought responses from the Centre through the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, the Delhi government and its municipal corporation, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Delhi Development Authority, and Delhi Police.

The bench said that the authorities in their reply must indicate steps taken to implement relevant rules and state whether regular inspections are being conducted. "Let replies be filed by all respondents, not only on parwaise reply to the petition but also details of the steps taken in respect

of concerns raised in the writ petition," the bench said while listing the matter for May 14.

The PIL filed by animal welfare activist Gauri Maulekhi has highlighted that the total number of bird strikes at IGIA between 2018 and 2023 stood at 705, outnumbering combined bird strike incidents reported across 29 airports in six states.

While bird strike events numbered around 100 from 2018 until 2021, the events saw a significant spike from 2022 onwards, when 183 such events were reported, followed by 169 such events reported between January and October 2023.

According to Maulekhi, the primary reason for such incidents is the "presence of slaughterhouses/meat shops/ dairy farms and environmental pollution around the IGIA", the operation of which is otherwise contrary to various statutes. Maulekhi, highlighting Aircraft Rules 1937, also sought closure of illegal slaughterhouses, meat shop clusters, and other prohibited establishments within a 10-km radius of the aerodrome point of IGIA.

Teacher dies by suicide; husband, father-in-law held

'He married my job, not me': Suicide note

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GHAZIABAD, MARCH 19

A DAY after a 31-year-old teacher at a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Delhi died allegedly by suicide at her home in Ghaziabad's Vasundhara, police arrested her husband and her father-in-law on Monday.

The arrest followed the registration of a dowry case on a complaint by the woman's family.

Minutes before her death, Anita Sharma had sent a message to her brother Amit on Sunday. "She sent the (suicide) note and a message to me at around 1.30 pm on Sunday, and then I alerted her husband," said Amit. "I love you bhai. Please forgive me and take care of everyone" – her last message read.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Anita's father Anil Sharma said he spent around Rs 26 lakh on the wedding. "We could sense the family (Kaushik's) was greedy. When they first came to meet my daughter, they raised a demand for a vehicle. I was hesitant but later thought of gifting it to my daughter. But that was also in Kaushik's name," he said.

"Anita had been working at a KV in Delhi's Dallupura since October 2019 as a Fine Arts teacher," he added.

ACP Shrivastava said, "We lodged an FIR after a complaint was filed against her husband, his father Surendra Sharma and mother Manju under BNS sections 85 (husband or relative of husband of woman subjecting her to cruelty), 80 (2) (punishment for dowry death), 115 (2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and sections of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961."



Congress and BJP councillors protest during the Budget session of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Wednesday. PTI

Ruckus again at MCD House on last day of Budget session

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

attempted to push AAP councillors aside in an effort to prevent Goel from completing the formalities but were unsuccessful.

Following the completion of Budget proceedings, BJP councillors climbed onto the Mayor's seat. Amid the commotion, MCD Commissioner Ashwani Kumar left the House. As the disruption continued, Mayor Mahesh Khichi ultimately adjourned the meeting.

The Budget has seen a significant diversion of funds.

Proposals passed included a Rs 3 lakh reduction in the sanitation budget, with the amount reallocated to funds for the Leader of Opposition.

An additional Rs 1 lakh was cut from the sanitation budget to cover the expenses of the Leader

of the House.

A substantial Rs 200 crore reduction in the road maintenance fund was diverted to the councillors' local area development fund, while another Rs 300 crore was reallocated from road maintenance to facilitate the regularisation of the MCD's daily-wage employees.

The AAP, which has 114 councillors in the 250-member House, is running the civic body in a minority. In the 2022 MCD elections, the AAP secured a majority by winning 134 seats while the BJP won 104 seats. However, since then, the BJP and AAP have engaged in aggressive poaching.

BJP's tally has increased to 117. The Congress' tally has decreased from nine to eight, after two councillors switched to the AAP.

Meanwhile, BJP councillors

clips – as he followed Ajmal – through a facial recognition system.

Earlier involved in a similar robbery case in 2023, he was aware of the movement of money in the area, said officials. "Two days before robbing the trader, he was contacted by Samir, and both of them surveyed Kucha Ghazi Ram and the nearby kuchas and galis and conducted a reconnaissance," DCP (North) Raja Banthia said.

Ajmal, however, was unaware that he was being followed by a man who knew he was carrying a bag with Rs 80 lakh in cash that he had collected from a firm. The man, who has been identified as Mohd. Ali, followed Ajmal on a two-wheeler to the main Chandni Chowk road, and then allegedly called up his accomplice Samir to help him identify their target.

Ajmal was close to his home when Samir intercepted him, took out a semi-automatic pistol, and fired at the ground to scare him. He allegedly robbed the cash and fled, said police.

As police analysed footage from around 500 CCTV cameras, they identified Ali in the

Delhi zoo's only female dhole dies

New Delhi: A nine-year-old female dhole brought to the Delhi Zoo for breeding purposes died on Wednesday, leaving just the solitary male wild dog in the zoo, officials said. Zoo officials said the cause of death remains unknown.

The dhole, a wild canid species native to Southeast Asia and known for its fox-like features, was brought to Delhi Zoo from Vizag in 2019 as part of an animal exchange programme.

A female wild dog, Macchali, aged nine-plus years, died on Wednesday while undergoing treatment. A postmortem will be conducted, and samples will be sent to the lab for analysis," said Delhi Zoo director Sanjeev Kumar.

He added that the range in charge has been instructed to submit a detailed report on the incident. In the wild, dholes typically live for 10 to 13 years, though they can survive up to 16 years in captivity.

This latest death follows the recent loss of a 15-year-old female leopard named Babli, which died on February 26 due to age-related complications. PTI

SOUTH DELHI TRIPLE MURDER

Youth killed family because sister was made sole heir of property, say police

PRAGYNESH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

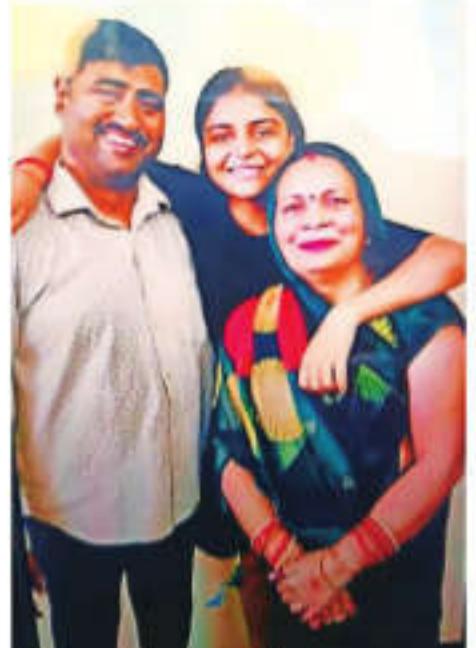
ON THE morning of December 3 last year, ex-Armyman Rajesh Kumar Tanwar (51), his wife Komal (46) and their 23-year-old daughter Kavita were murdered at their home in Devli village, in South Delhi's Neb Sarai. It was their son, 20-year-old Arjun, who found them with their throats slit and called PCR. Police later arrested the son for the crime.

Arjun's parents making his sister the sole heir to the property was the prime trigger behind him allegedly killing the three, officers said.

Arjun was a Delhi University student and a state-level boxer.

A 36-page chargesheet in the case was filed on March 7 in the Saket court, police said.

Police claimed Arjun was angry with his father because of his constant objections to his "wayward" life. Initially, the property of the Tanwars – their house and a grocery shop in Neb



Ex-Armyman Rajesh Kumar Tanwar (51), his wife Komal (46) and their 23-year-old daughter Kavita were murdered at their home in Devli village. Archive

Sarai – was set to be given to Arjun. But his father's disappointment in Arjun made him change his mind, said police.

Forensic test reports, which analysed bloodstains on the house keys and Arjun's motorcycle key which he carried in his pocket, helped bolster the case against him, said police.

Earlier, police had claimed that Rajesh thrashed Arjun in front of their relatives and the family had a big fight on December 1 during his sister's

birthday party. The incident took place on December 3 last year. Police said Arjun allegedly killed his parents on their 25th anniversary – as well as his sister.

At 6.53 am, police said Arjun made a PCR call, saying someone had snuck inside their flat and murdered his parents and sister. He claimed he had gone to the gym and found the bodies when he returned, police had said.

told, and fired at the ground to scare him. He allegedly robbed the cash and fled, said police.

As police were approached and a case was filed, three teams, including one from the Special Staff led by Inspector Rohit Saraswat, were formed to track the robbers.

CCTV footage revealed that the alleged assailant had fled from the spot towards the main Chandni Chowk road and then boarded an auto. "The accused was seen boarding an auto near Fatehpuri Masjid, which then turned towards Lahori Gate. From CCTV footage, the auto's registration number was identified, and the auto driver was questioned," DCP (North) Raja Banthia said.

Banthia added, "After committing the offence on Monday, both the accused met in Daryaganj and decided to share the stolen money later, as news of the incident spread, along with related CCTV footage."

Samir had boarded the auto at 7.50 pm, 10 minutes after robbing Ajmal, but he soon deboarded the vehicle, the auto driver told the police.

As police analysed footage from around 500 CCTV cameras, they identified Ali in the

MAIN ACCUSED STILL AT LARGE, SAY POLICE

Elderly couple killed: Man who used to work for them arrested

Accused Ravi conspired with main suspect to rob couple: DCP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

A DAY after the bodies of an elderly couple were found at their flat in Northwest Delhi's Kohat Enclave, the Delhi Police arrested an attendant who used to work for them in connection with the case.

The main suspect – their current caretaker, who joined the job a few days ago – remains at large, police said.

According to police, Mohinder Singh Talwar (72) had been strangled to death while Daljeet Kaur had injuries on her head, along with strangulation marks on her neck. Police suspect the crime happened in the late hours of Sunday.

Police said the accused, 37-year-old Ravi Kishore, was arrested from his Uttam Nagar residence around 8 pm on Tuesday. "Ravi used to work for the couple previously as an attendant nurse. He then left the job. The couple



The couple was found dead at their third-floor flat at Kohat Enclave in Northwest Delhi on Tuesday morning. Express

asked him to work for them again, but he refused saying that he had settled in Uttam Nagar," a senior police officer said.

Police said Ravi, however, recommended the accused to the couple and asked them to employ him, police said. Taking his word, as he was an old employee of theirs, the couple accepted the proposal.

"Ravi conspired with the main accused to rob the couple

as he knew where the safe was, along with the other jewels and cash. They decided to divide the proceeds," DCP (Northwest) Bhisham Singh said.

During questioning, a senior police officer said, Ravi claimed he only asked the accused to rob and not to kill the couple.

The bodies were discovered around 10.30 am on Tuesday after the family's driver told their elder son, Charanpreet Singh,

that he had rung the doorbell several times to no response.

The Talwars' two sons live in the building next door.

"My wife went to the house and saw their main door was slightly ajar," Charanpreet had told *The Indian Express* on Tuesday. "She opened the door and saw my mother lying towards the left... my father-sahab was in his room," he said.

He said they hired an attendant as his father had been diagnosed with Parkinson's a few months ago and was bedridden. "He needed round-the-clock care and had to take medicines every few hours, even at night..." Charanpreet added.

On Monday, the couple's domestic worker allegedly rang the doorbell several times and left when no one answered the door, leading to the late discovery of the bodies.

The sons said the family's driver also had his day off on Monday. They said they couldn't check on their parents on that day as they were caught up with work.

The Talwars owned ready-made garment shops in Paschim Vihar and Kamla Nagar. They are now being handled by their sons, Charanpreet and Manpreet. They also have a daughter.

The fingerprints were collected from the spot and were run through the police data-

ROBBERY AT DU EX-PROFESSOR'S HOME

Domestic help related to one of the robbers, helped the accused, say police

PRAGYNESH
NEW DELHI MARCH 19

TWO DAYS after gold and cash were looted from the house of a former Delhi University (DU) professor in Northwest Delhi's Ashok Vihar, police said on Wednesday that their domestic help is the cousin of one of the accused and allegedly helped the robbers.

"The domestic help was questioned. She has admitted to her role in the crime," DCP (North West) Bhisham Singh said.

On Monday, when the former DU professor and his wife were held hostage, the domestic help was with them.

According to police, they received a PCR call around 11.45 am about the incident, which had taken place around 11 am. Police said four assailants stormed into the elderly couple's house, tied them up and their help, and looted the gold and cash in the house before fleeing in the couple's car.

"The fingerprints were collected from the spot and were run through the police data-

base. It was found that one of the accused had a case against him in Khajuria. He was found to be related to the domestic help," an officer privy to the investigation said.

She was allegedly asked by her cousin, one of the four robbers, about the cash and jewellery in the house during the robbery, said police.

The robbers later dumped the car to avoid getting caught. The stolen vehicle was later recovered near Wazirabad JJ Colony, said police.

"The car was likely stolen to make a quick getaway and later dumped to avoid detection by the police," Bhisham Singh had earlier said.

Woman's body found floating in pond

New Delhi: A woman's body was found floating in a pond in North West Delhi's Rohini area, said police. According to the police, a call was made by a local on Wednesday at the Kanjhawala police station to report the incident. "Local police reached the spot and found the body of a woman in her 30s in the pond," said DCP (Rohini) Amit Goel. The pond is used for Chhath Puja rituals, according to locals.

Police claim no injury mark has been found on the body. Efforts are on to identify her. ENS

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MUMBAI

1st floor, Terminal 1, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Santacruz (E), Mumbai - 400 099.

CORIGENDUM

Request for Qualification and Proposal for Development and Management of Cargo Community System for provision of EDI services (AMAX IT Services) at Air Cargo Complex, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai

Mumbai International Airport Limited ("MIAL") extend the last date of receipt of applications for RFQP (Request for Qualification and Proposal) till 28th March 2025 to award Concession for above mentioned EDI services (AMAX IT Services) through a competitive bidding process. MIAL hereby invites interested parties to participate in the competitive bidding process by submitting an application to MIAL. The application can be downloaded from CSMIA website: <https://csmia.adaniairports.com/tenders.aspx>

Contact details: cargo.csmia@adani.com

Lexmae Pharmaceuticals Enters Into Contract For Export

Lexmae Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd on Wednesday said it has entered into strategic contracts for export supplies like Azerbaijan (European continent) Trinidad & Tobago (Caribbean continent).

This milestone marks the beginning of a promising collaboration aimed to export quality medicine from India.

Under this collaboration Lexmae will supply multiple SKU oral and Topical formulations. This agreement aligns with Lexmae strategic growth objective to expand its presence in overseas market.



REVIEW IN PROGRESS

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena along with CM Rekha Gupta, BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj and PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh during the inspection of the covering work of the Sunehri Pul drain, in New Delhi on Wednesday. Express

10 houses in PWD basket for CM, LoP, six ministers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

THE PUBLIC Works Department (PWD) has initiated the process of offering official accommodation for the Delhi Chief Minister and the six Cabinet ministers, and has shared a list of houses in its pool, said a senior official.

The official said, "There are a total of six ministers and the Chief Minister. Besides, houses will also be allotted to the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Leader of Opposition. The PWD has more than 10 houses in its basket. A list of houses has been shared with all of them. As soon as they accept them, the houses will be allotted."

The PWD has around 12-15 bungalows in its pool. Of these, two are in Madhu Limaye Marg in Chanakyapuri and the remaining in Shambhav Marg, Civil Lines.

Former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal lived in the 6, Flag Staff Road bungalow, which ran into controversy over its alleged extravagant remodelling and renovation. The bungalow, dubbed 'Sheesh Mahal' by the BJP, is reportedly being considered as a state guest

house by the government.

CM Rekha Gupta and the party, in several statements, have categorically said she will not live in that house. She is currently working out of her family home at Shalimar Bagh.

Sources said, "The CM's house is yet to be finalised... Bungalow number 2 on Madhu Limaye Marg, Chanakyapuri, has been offered to Education Minister Ashish Sood. Other ministers such as Ravinder Singh Indraj, Deputy Vidhan Sabha Speaker Mohan Singh Bisht and others have been offered houses on Shambhav Marg." Bisht said, "Yes, I have been offered a bungalow near Raj Niwas. I will select one and accept it soon."

A source from Sood's office said, "Nothing is finalised yet. But the minister's preference is Chanakyapuri as it will be closer to his constituency, Janakpuri. Currently, an official is residing in the bungalow and it will take some time for him to vacate."

PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh currently lives at Windsor Place in New Delhi and he will stay there, said sources.

Officials also said Leader of Opposition Atishi is yet to vacate the AB 17 Mathura Road house.

Delhi cops undergo anti-harassment training

New Delhi: Days after the formation of 'anti-eve-teasing' squads, over 300 personnel of the Delhi Police received training at Wazirabad's Police Training Centre on Wednesday. Each district of the Delhi Police has formed two such squads led by inspector-level officers. These squads will comprise trained personnel, who shall focus on preventing, deterring, and responding to such offences on a real-time basis, as per directions of the Delhi Police headquarters. The training was for a day and concluded in the evening. Among the mandates for the 'anti-eve-teasing' or 'Shishastha' squads are enforcing the law rather than imposing personal or cultural morality on individuals, and ensuring that the victims are protected from unnecessary public scrutiny or embarrassment. ENS

International Sporting Glory
For the First Time in Bihar

Sepaktakraw World Cup 2025, Bihar

20 to 25 March 2025

Grand Inauguration by Shri Nitish Kumar Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar

Shri Nitish Kumar Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar

20th March 2025 5:30 PM
Patliputra Sports Complex, Kankarbagh, Patna

Bihar Welcomes Sepaktakraw Athletes from 20 Nations!

India	USA	France	Italy	Poland	New Zealand	Switzerland	Brazil	China	Myanmar
Thailand	Malaysia	Iran	Vietnam	Indonesia	Chinese Taipei	Singapore	Japan	Sri Lanka	Nepal

Sepaktakraw, also known as 'kick volleyball,' is a sport similar to volleyball but played using the feet. Sepaktakraw is a combination of football, volleyball, and gymnastics. In this game, players use their feet, knees, chest, and head instead of their hands to send the ball across the net.

Atithi Satkaar Hamara Sanskar

For more information please scan:

PR No.: 022245 | Sports ID: 2024-25

IN PARLIAMENT

BUDGET SESSION

QUESTIONS IN HOUSE

HYPERLOOP SAFETY PARAMETERS YET TO BE FRAMED WORLDWIDE

New Delhi: Hyperloop is an emerging technology and is at nascent stage of development. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said in a written reply in LS on Wednesday. "The technical and safety parameters of Hyperloop are yet to be framed worldwide," he said in response to questions by BJP MP Nishant Dubey. Dubey wanted to know the estimated timeline for the completion of the proposed 11.5-km Hyperloop track and the expected benefits of Hyperloop tech in terms of speed, energy efficiency, among other things. PTI

STONE-PELTING ON TRAINS: 7,971 CASES REPORTED SINCE '23

New Delhi: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said Wednesday 7,971 incidents of stone-pelting on trains, including Vande Bharat, have been reported from 2023 till February 2025, with 4,549 arrested. In LS, BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind raised the issue of stone pelting on trains and asked if government has sought a fact-finding report. PTI

TMC MP's remarks against Shah in RS draw BJP's protests

ENS & PTI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

TMC MP Saket Gokhale's remarks against Union Home Minister Amit Shah in RS Wednesday drew protests from the Treasury benches and prompted Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar to remove the remarks.

During a discussion on the working of the MHA, Gokhale, who initiated the discussion, alleged that over 6,900 corruption cases have been registered by CBI on which no convictions have taken place.

Countering it, Shah said, "Wrong information is being given to the House. The number of cases he (Gokhale) is talking about... are those registered on the orders of the Supreme Court and HC, for political violence in West Bengal. These are not cases of corruption. In areas where we were getting a majority, people were targeted. When the victims went to court, the HC ordered that CBI take it up. There is no conclusion in these cases because West Bengal does not have a single CBI special court."

After Gokhale, while initiating the discussion, cast aspersions on Shah's conduct as well as against BJP, Union Ministers J P Nadda, Kiren Rijiju and some BJP MPs demanded that he withdraw his statements, but he refused.

The Chairman said that the remarks would be deleted as they were "personal".

'Urgent need for national policy': Dhankhar bats for debate on freebies, says will discuss with Govt, Opp

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

VICE PRESIDENT and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday batted for a discussion on freebies and subsidies, saying there was "an urgent need for a national policy" so that government investments are "used in a structured manner for larger good".

Dhankhar spoke on the issue after senior SP MP Ram Gopal Yadav raised the issue of hiking Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) funds.

"On placatory mechanisms, on appeasement, which is often known as freebies, this House

needs to deliberate...because the country grows only with capex being available. Electoral process is such that these have become electoral allurements and thereafter the governments that came in saddle found themselves very uncomfortable, so uncomfortable that they wanted to revisit their thoughts," Dhankhar said. "There is an urgent need for a national policy so that all investments of the government in any form are used in a structured manner for larger good," he added.

Dhankhar said he would confer with the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House on the issue.

Dhankhar then went on to speak about the disparity in pensions and perks for MLAs and MPs.



Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar in New Delhi, Wednesday. PTI

"Our Constitution provided for legislature, MPs, MLAs, but did not have uniform mechanism. So, you will find legislatures in several states give perks and salaries to members of the Assembly, much beyond mem-

bers of Parliament, and even the pension variation for a former member of the Assembly is on a scale of 1 to 10," Dhankhar said.

He added that these were issues where legislation would help the politicians, the government, and the executive. "It will ensure high quality of investment," Dhankhar said.

Before Dhankhar's call for a debate on freebies, SP's Ram Gopal Yadav raised the issue of hike of MPLAD funds, in which ₹5 crore is allocated to MPs for undertaking developmental works. For Lok Sabha MPs, these funds are used in their constituency, and Rajya Sabha MPs can use funds in districts of the state where they are elected from.

Yadav suggested that the

government should increase the MPLAD funds to ₹20 crore per year, not levy GST, and establish a technical cell that will oversee estimate and quality control.

On subsidies, Dhankhar said that they should be transferred directly into the accounts of farm sector beneficiaries, for instance.

Subsidies, if required in areas like the farm sector, should be direct, and that is the practice in developed countries, he said. "I checked with the US mechanism. The US has 1/5th of farm households as our country but the average income of US farm households is more than the general income of US households, and that is because the subsidy to the farmer is direct, transparent, without intermediary," he said.

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WRITTEN REPLY IN RS

2 convictions in 193 ED cases against leaders in 10 yrs: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) registered a total of 193 cases against politicians, including serving and former MPs and MLAs, over the last 10 years and secured conviction in two of those, the government has informed Parliament.

Both were probed by the ED as part of a money-laundering investigation against former Jharkhand CM Madhu Koda. It is not clear if the two convicted politicians had appealed against the sentences pronounced by special PMLA courts in Ranchi.

According to the data, the maximum number of 32 cases against former and serving legislators were filed by the ED during the 2022-23 fiscal.

"ED takes up the cases for investigation based on credible evidence/material and does not distinguish cases based on political affiliations, religion or otherwise," the minister said in his reply.

"Further, the actions of ED are always open to judicial review," he said.

ED is accountable to different judicial fora like the Adjudicating Authority and Appellate Tribunal of the PMLA, special courts, HCs and the Supreme Court for the actions taken in the course of implementing the PMLA, FEMA and FEOA, Chaudhary said.

Chaudhary said 193 cases were filed by the ED against this category of persons between April 2015 and February 2025.

The minister added that two cases, one during the 2016-17 fiscal and another in 2019-20, led to conviction and there was no acquittal. He did not mention the cases or the names of the accused in the reply.

However, according to official records, former Jharkhand minister Hari Narayan Rai was sentenced to seven years of rigorous imprisonment and fined ₹5 lakh under the PMLA in 2017, while another former minister from the state, Anosh Ekka, was sentenced to seven years rigorous imprisonment and slapped with a fine of ₹2 crore in 2020.

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UP BUDGET 2025-26

CHARTING A NEW ERA OF INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A VISIONARY BUDGET FOR A PROGRESSIVE UTTAR PRADESH



The Budget 2025-26 is inspired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and follows the theme priority to the deprived. It covers everything from agriculture to welfare, faith to livelihood and education to self-reliance, ensuring a stronger foundation for a developed Uttar Pradesh.

-Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh



Over the past 8 years under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh has experienced notable changes in its economy and law enforcement. Budget 2025-26 focuses on key sectors such as farmers, youth, women, middle class and indigent. With a comprehensive outlay Rs. 8.09 lakh crores, this budget focuses on transforming Uttar Pradesh into an economic powerhouse while ensuring inclusive growth. UP government has outlined a balanced approach that emphasizes infrastructure, social welfare, industrial growth and sustainable development.

PROSPERITY WITH PRUDENCE STRONG FINANCES, QUALITY SERVICES

On the Rise:

Leading Economic Development for India
Uttar Pradesh showcases higher growth in comparison to India
(Source: MoSPI)

13.5 %
GSDP Growth
(FY 24)

Beyond National Averages -

Accelerating Growth in the Primary Sector:
UP surpassing India average growth of 5%
(Source: MoSPI)

15 %
Primary Sector
Growth
(FY 24)

Managing Debt Responsibly:

Uttar Pradesh Ranks second in Debt Sustainability across India
(Source: Fiscal Health Index 2025 Niti Ayog FY2022-23)

2nd
in Debt
Sustainability

Investing in the Future:

Highest Capital Outlay by a General Category State
Highest capital outlay to GSDP in GCS (FY24)
(Source: RBI and MoSPI)

1st
Rank in Capital
Outlay

Improving Lives:

Rs. 83,108.93 Crore + Direct Benefit Transfers made in FY 2024-25
Ranked second highest in DBT performance across India
(Source: DBT Bharat)

2nd
Rank in Direct
Benefit Transfers

Rs. 5,50,172.21

Cr

TAX REVENUE

Rs. 2,95,000

Rs. 24,603.85

Cr

Cr

State's Own Tax Revenue

State's Own Non-tax Revenue

Rs. 2,55,172.21

Rs. 87,914.87

Cr

Cr

UP's share in Central Taxes

Grant-in-Aid from the Union Government

DEPARTMENTAL ALLOCATION

- Education **Rs. 1,06,360.81 Cr**
- Energy **Rs. 61,070.91 Cr**
- Health **Rs. 50,550.42 Cr**
- Public Works **Rs. 36,855.90 Cr**
- Police **Rs. 40,868.83 Cr**
- Namami Gange **Rs. 25,459.84 Cr**
- Urban Development **Rs. 25,308.48 Cr**
- Rural Development **Rs. 25,014.29 Cr**
- Heavy and Medium Industries **Rs. 23,999.76 Cr**
- Panchayati Raj **Rs. 19,174.11 Cr**
- Transport **Rs. 1,406.71 Cr**

Green Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Management Program
- Purchase of new electric buses and construction of EV charging stations
- Establishment of Forestry and Horticulture University
- Joint venture with NTPC Green to install 200 MW solar power plant

Women Empowerment

- Free scooter for college-going girl students under the Rani Laxmibai Scheme

Education

- Higher Education Promotion Scheme 2024
- Establishment of a special education zone

Social Care

- Establishment of Annapurna Rasoi
- Construction of Annapurna Bhawan for Fair Price Shops

Industrial Growth & Employment Generation

- Mukhyamantri Food Processing and Rural Self-Employment Scheme
- Uttar Pradesh World Capacity Centre Policy 2024

Footwear and Leather Development Scheme

- Mukhyamantri Apparel and Garment Policy
- Mukhyamantri Silk Development Scheme
- New sugar mill, generation plant, and distillery in Pipraich, Gorakhpur
- New sugar mill of 2000 TCD capacity, logistics and warehousing hub in Chhata (Mathura) sugar mill
- Establishment of MRO Facility Hub
- Cookery and Bakery Training Program
- Uttar Pradesh State Horticulture Export Promotion Scheme

Urban Development, Infrastructure and Connectivity

- Development of infrastructural facilities in Kanpur, Mathura, Vrindavan, and Meerut
- New bridges on Ganges and Yamuna in Prayagraj
- Development of district headquarters as Model Smart Local Bodies
- Road development and extension in newly notified local bodies
- Access controlled green field link expressway connecting Jewar Airport and Ganga Expressway

- Extension of Ganga Expressway from Meerut to Haridwar
- Connecting Vindhya Expressway to Purvanchal Expressway
- Extension of Ganga Expressway to Sonbhadra as Vindhya Expressway
- Bundelkhand - Reewa Link Expressway

Tourism

- Vidur Kuti (Bijnor) and Mahabharat circuit tourism development
- Establishment of the Freedom Struggle Movement Museum in Ayodhya
- Wayside public amenities development in tourist areas

Digital Uttar Pradesh

- Development of AI City in Lucknow
- PMU for Open Government Data
- Digitalization and technology adoption in Cooperative Banks
- Establishment of a new Science Park, Planetarium, and Science City
- Distribution of laptops/tablets to revenue field officials



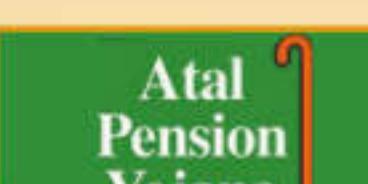
1st in India
Pradhan Mantri
Mudra Yojana



1st in India
Pradhan Mantri
Jan Dhan Yojana



1st in India
Pradhan Mantri
Suraksha Bima
Yojana



1st in India
Pradhan Mantri
Atal Pension
Yojana



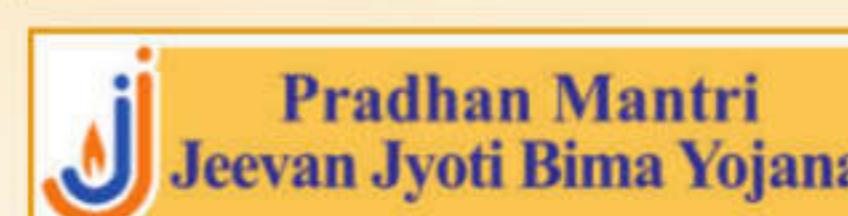
1st in India
Pradhan Mantri
Ujjwala Yojana



1st in India
Pradhan Mantri
Awas Yojana



1st in India
Ayushman Bharat
Digital Mission



2nd in India
Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti
Bima Yojana

J&K govt to formulate new media guidelines

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, MARCH 19

THE JAMMU Kashmir government is formulating a new media policy to take into account emerging platforms including social media platforms and news website.

This comes five years after the New Media Policy of 2020 was met with opposition from both the media and political parties.

In its reply to a cut motion from Pulwama MLA Waheed-ur-

Rehman Para Tuesday, the government said: "The formulation of New Media Policy aims to align with the evolving media landscape and adhere to the standards set by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), Government of India."

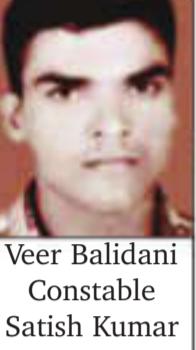
Addressing media concerns about the Srinagar Press Club, the government said it "was operating from a building provided by the Estates Department... due to a dispute, the building is now temporarily occupied by J&K Police".

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

RFN KAMAL KUMAR GURUNG
20 MAR

On this day 5049784LRFN Kamal Kumar Gurung of 5/1 Gorkha Rifles made the supreme sacrifice during 'OP RAKSHAK' Jammu & Kashmir in Mar 2012 in a true act of valour. The brave soldier will always be remembered for his enthusiasm. To this brave heart we pledge that we shall always be guided by his immortal spirit and make his name proud.

CO AND ALL RANKS, 5/1 GORKHA RIFLES



CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE
20 March 2015

On 20 March 2015, two militants stormed Police Station Rajbagh, Kathua, opening indiscriminate fire. A platoon of 121 Battalion of CRPF stationed there swiftly engaged them. Constable Satish Kumar and Constable Mohite Suraj Sarje Rao, positioned on the first floor, immediately took defensive positions near the stairs and retaliated. Despite sustaining severe injuries, they held their ground, neutralizing all attacks. The second was neutralized after a fierce gunfight on the ground floor. Both bravehearts succumbed to their injuries, making the supreme sacrifice. For their exceptional courage and unwavering duty, they were posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry.

20 March 1989
Veer Balidan Constable Mohit Suraj Sarje Rao 121 BN. 16-12-1993 To 20-3-2015
eliminating one militant. The second was neutralized after a fierce gunfight on the ground floor. Both bravehearts succumbed to their injuries, making the supreme sacrifice. For their exceptional courage and unwavering duty, they were posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry.

20 March, 2019
"Sashastra Seema Bal" fondly remembers the selfless and valiant act of the braveheart CT(GD) Rayaz Ahmad Gojar Khatana, who made supreme sacrifice for the Nation.

On this day, he attained martyrdom during heavy cross border shelling from Pakistan in Distr-Baramulla (JK). He will always be remembered for his courage, valour and supreme sacrifice for the Nation.

"SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL"

CT(GD) Rayaz Ahmad Gojar Khatana

the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

20 March, 2019
"Sashastra Seema Bal" fondly remembers the selfless and valiant act of the braveheart CT(GD) Rayaz Ahmad Gojar Khatana, who made supreme sacrifice for the Nation.

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"SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL"

ALLAHABAD

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) and 13(12) read with Rules 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a Demand Notice on the date noted against the account as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rules 8 & 9 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against the Account. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be the subject to charge to Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) for the amounts and interest thereon mentioned against the account herein below.

Name of Branch **Name of the Borrower / Mortgagor/Guarantor (Owner of the Property)** **Description of the Charged/Mortgaged Property (All the part & parcel of the property consisting of)** **Date of Demand Notice** **Amount outstanding as on the date of Demand Notice** **Date of Possession or Notice**

1. Vinod Kumar (Borrower) S/o Brahmdeo Mahato, 2. Brahmdeo Mahato (Borrower Cum Mortgagor S/o Golu Mahto, 3. Anju Devi (Guarantor) W/o Vinod Kumar, All above (1,2,3) resident at Braj Bihari Gali, Ward No. 02, Krishna Toli, Brahmdeo, PO- MIT, Thana No. 402, Muzaffarpur-842003, 4. Ajay Kumar Singh (Guarantor) S/o Rakeshwar Singh, resident at Kolhua Dadar PO-MIT Bajirao, Muzaffarpur-842003

1. Mr. Sanjay Thakur (Borrower Cum Mortgagor) S/o Sadhu Thakur, 2. Mr. Surendra Thakur (Borrower) S/o Sadhu Thakur, both above (1 & 2) resident at Bhikanpur, Ahiyapur, Muzaffarpur-842004, 3. Mr. Rajiv Kumar Paswan (Guarantor) S/o Satish Kumar Paswan, resident at Madurapur Dullah, Muzaffarpur-842004, 4. Mr. Arun Kumar (Guarantor) S/o Jay Lal Sah, resident at Shabujpur Salem, Muzaffarpur-842004

1. Shri Jayan Trading Company, (Borrowing Firm) Prop. Mrs. Meena Kumari Giri, Situated at Kishunpur, PO-Jiwdhara, East Champaran 845429, 2. Mrs. Meena Kumari Giri (Proprietor) W/o Mr. Avinash Puri, 3. Mr. Avinash Puri (Guarantor & Mortgagor) S/o Sri Parmanand Puri, both above (2 & 3) resident at Kishunpur, PO-Jiwdhara, East Champaran 845429,

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**CAUTION NOTICE**

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Statutory body established by an act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956', Ministry of MSME, Government of India, Located at "Gramodyog", 3 Irla Road, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra-400056, hereby brings to the Notice of the General Public that KVIC is the proprietor and owner of the Trademarks mentioned below for all goods and services:



The above mentioned trademarks are protected and registered in India and in various countries worldwide and are being used by KVIC continuously and openly in the world. Appropriate legal action will be taken in the Court of Law against all those responsible for and indulging in all acts leading to the unauthorized use in any manner of KVIC's above mentioned trademarks, and/or any deceptively similar trademarks, including use of KVIC's KHADI trademark as a suffix or prefix, either as a trademark, trade name, and/or part of domain name, to safeguard KVIC's legal rights. Members of the public having any knowledge/information of the above mentioned trademarks being used by anyone other than entities/ person authorized by Khadi and Village Industries Commission are requested to intimate KVIC at the address legalaffairs.kVIC@gov.in.

-Dy. Chief Executive Officer (Legal Affairs)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**E-TENDER**

DRM (Electrical) NWR Ajmer on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender for the following work up to 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. **Tender No. : DRM-Elect-37-24-25** **Name of work:** All Div: Electric work due to provision of inner pit light in pit line at Coach Care Complex Madar and Coaching depot Udaipur. **Approximate cost of work:** ₹ 1,51,31,870/- **Ernest Money:** ₹ 2,25,700/- **Date of closing E-Tender:** 08.04.2025 **Tender No. :** DRM-Elect-38-24-25 **Name of work:** All Div: Provision of RMU in lieu of existing H-Pole. **Approximate cost of work:** ₹ 1,84,47,139/- **Ernest Money:** ₹ 2,42,200/- **Date of closing E-Tender:** 08.04.2025 The details of above E-tender are available on website www.ireps.gov.in

325-AJ/25

Follow us on

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
HARYANA ROADWAYS REWARI****Short Term Notice**

Sealed quotation are invited by the General Manager, Haryana Roadways, Rewari for dismantling the building of old Bus Stand Kosli and for disposal of its consequential materials/ salvaged materials. Keeping in view the urgency, the sealed quotation may be deposited by hand with the Building Clerk (8950613770) at Bus Stand Rewari up to 24-03-2025 at 10 am. The tenders so deposited will be opened on that date at 11 am in the presence of all interested parties in the office of GM Rewari. Negotiations may also be held thereafter on the same day. Terms and conditions may be obtained from the undersigned office.

Sd/-

General Manager,
Haryana Roadways,
Rewari,

No. 33056/HRY

**HARYANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
C-11, SECTOR-6, PANCHKULA**

Website: www.hspcb.org.in E-mail: hspcbmics@gmail.com

Ph.: 0172-2577870-873

Public Notice

Whereas the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13029 titled as MC Mehta Vs Union of India and Ors. vide order dated 17.01.2025 has issued directions which are reproduced as below:

"As regards the ban imposed on use etc. of firecrackers, our last order dated 19th December, 2024 records that the State of Rajasthan has imposed a similar ban in perpetuity in terms of the ban imposed by the Government of Delhi under the order dated 19th December, 2024. The State of Rajasthan has confined the ban to that part of the State that falls in the National Capital Region (NCR).

We direct the States of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to consider of taking a decision to impose a perpetual ban similar to the one which is imposed by the Delhi Government under the order dated 19th December, 2024 which is restricted to the NCR parts of the State. Till further orders are passed, the ban imposed by the States of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana limited to the NCR parts of the States which was effective till today is extended. The compliance by the States will be considered on 24th March, 2025 at the end of the cause list."

In view of above, all the general public and stakeholders are hereby informed through this public notice for the strict compliance that there shall be complete ban on manufacturing, storage, sale (including delivery through online marketing platforms) and bursting of all kind of firecracker in Districts falls in NCR Area in the State of Haryana throughout the year as ordered by the Additional Chief Secretary to Govt of Haryana Environment and Climate Change Department vide their letter no. Endst No.16/09/2024-3Env.dated 28.02.2025

Member Secretary

No. 33032/HRY Haryana State Pollution Control Board

**PIMPRI CHINCHWAD MAHANAGAR PALIKA
DIVYANG BHAVAN FOUNDATION**

Near Central Mall Out Gate, Morwadi Pimpri, Pune-411018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The PCMC Divyang Bhavan Foundation invites Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the Selection of any Agency for ERP Solution for Pimpri Chinchwad Mahanagar Palika Divyang Bhavan Foundation.

Sr. No.	Activity Description	Date
1	Starting Date for Submission of Bid	08.03.2025
2	Last Date for Submission of Bid	25.03.2025 @ 11.59AM
3	The Date for Opening of Technical Bids	27.03.2025 @ 15.30 Hrs (tentative)
4	The Date for opening Financial Bids	To be informed.

All the information / corrigendum / addendum related to the project shall be published on the website <https://pcmcdivyangbhavan.org> and the authority shall have the right to reject the bid partially or fully without assigned any reason.

Pradip Jambhale Patil (IAS)

Director

PCMC Divyang Bhavan Foundation

Place : Pimpri Chinchwad

Date : 19th March 2025

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
Sub: Pre bid meeting for procurement of Elevators			
Tender No. 12255003 due on 14.04.2025 for procurement of "Elevators" has been floated by Northern Railway, Baroda House, New Delhi. The Pre Bid meeting is schedule for dated 27.03.2025 at 11:30 Hrs. at Conference Hall, 2nd Floor, Stores Department, Baroda House, New Delhi, India. Please make it convenient to attend the same.			
No.: 12255003/Elevator/P-12 Dated: 17.03.2025 866/2025			

"IMPORTANT"			
Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.			
The last date for the submission of tender is 09/04/2025. For more details please refer to our advertisement published on the Company's official website (www.newindia.co.in)			
The Company reserves the rights to reject any or all of the offers in part or full without assigning any reasons thereof.			

THE NEW INDIA ASSURANCE CO. LTD.			
Chandigarh Regional Office (350000), 36-37, Sector 17A, Chandigarh-160017, Ph: 0172-2701756, 2702806, 2704954, Website: www.newindia.co.in			
CIN No: L66000MH1919G0100526 IRDA Registration No: 190			
REQUIREMENT OF COMMERCIAL SPACE ON LEASE BASIS AT ROHTAK (HARYANA)			
We intend to acquire commercial premises on lease basis at Rohtak with details as under:			

For Rohtak Business	Carpet area of approx 800 sq. ft. at prime location
The last date for the submission of tender is 09/04/2025. For more details please refer to our advertisement published on the Company's official website (www.newindia.co.in)	

DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS! POST HOLI FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2025

For the convenience of passengers Railways have decided to run several post Holi Festival Special trains from Delhi area stations, the date wise list of the same is as under:-

SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 20.03.2025 (THURSDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station To	Arr. Time	Stoppages
04026	Delhi Jn.	23:05	Raxaul Jn.	19:00	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur & Narkatiaganj Jn. Stns.
03698	Delhi Jn.	08:55	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & Anugrah Narayan Road Stations
02436	New Delhi	08:30	Patna Jn.	20:10	Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Rajendra Nagar	07:45	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn. Stations
04028	Anand Vihar (T.)	23:55	Jogbani	03:00	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly Jn., Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patoree, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn., Naugachia, Kathar Jn., Purnea Jn., Araria & Forbesganj Jn. Stations
05578	Anand Vihar (T.)	05:15	Saharsa Jn.	10:30	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Bagaha, Narkatiaganj Jn., Raxaul Jn., Bairagni, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn., Sakri Jn., Jhanjharpur, Ghogardih, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul & Garh Baruari Stations
05114	Anand Vihar (T.)	16:00	Chhapra	14:00	Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anugrah Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Dhanbad, Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, New Cooch Behar, Tufanganj, Golakganj Jn., Gaupur, Bilaspur, Abhayapuri Assam & Goalpara Town Stations
04018	Anand Vihar (T.)	09:00	Muzaffarpur Jn.	06:00	Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Narkatiaganj Jn., Sagauli Jn. & Bapudham Motihari Stations

SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 21.03.2025 (FRIDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS

05058	Delhi Jn.	14:00	Gorakhpur Jn.	06:25	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Burhwali Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, & Khalilabad Stations
03698	Delhi Jn.	08:55	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & Anugrah Narayan Road Stations
04146	Del				

THE WORK OF PEACE

A 30-day limited ceasefire in Ukraine is not the end of war, but it is something to build on

FOR NEARLY THREE years, there has seemed to be no end in sight to the war in Ukraine for many reasons — among them, that the US, under former president Joe Biden, refused to engage with Russia, and because of the Kremlin's determination to escalate the conflict. A few weeks ago, however, President Donald Trump opened the door to negotiations with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump has insisted that Putin will honour any agreement they reach. In contrast, the US president accused his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy of "gambling with World War III" during the infamous White House confrontation in February. Yet, during the March 18 phone call between Trump and Putin — their second in a month — Putin rejected the 30-day immediate and full ceasefire proposal that Trump had hoped would serve as a first step towards a permanent peace deal. This should make it clear to Washington that negotiating with Moscow will be far more challenging than talking with Kyiv. Even as Trump pushed for a ceasefire that Ukraine had already agreed to, what he obtained was a limited commitment: Russia would refrain from attacking Ukraine's energy grid if the latter did the same. Clearly, Putin has still not retreated from his maximalist positions concerning territory and NATO membership.

Even so, a 30-day ceasefire on energy infrastructure strikes is a welcome development. Negotiations are expected to begin soon for a maritime ceasefire in the Black Sea. The future of this region is likely to be a key element in any peace deal, given the Kremlin's assertion that the Black Sea is part of "historical" Russia. The most contentious issues will be those concerning military aid and intelligence. During the call, Putin demanded a complete halt to "all" Western military support for Ukraine. This means not just the US, but also Britain, France, Germany and other NATO countries. The glaring contradiction is that the European Union very recently initiated a proposal to pledge up to 40 billion euros in military aid for Ukraine. How Washington navigates Moscow's demands, while balancing its relations with Europe — united in backing Kyiv — will be crucial in determining the likelihood of a full ceasefire.

Ultimately, all parties must engage in further dialogue. Two phone calls between Putin and Trump are far from sufficient to end the war on terms that are also fair to Ukraine. Encouragingly, despite the hostile White House meeting two weeks ago, Ukraine's visiting Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha stated during the Raisina Dialogue in Delhi that Kyiv believes a "long-lasting and just peace" can be achieved under Trump's leadership. Moscow, too, has to provide more reason to believe that it desires an end to the war. That Russia attacked Ukraine with kamikaze drones and surface-to-air missiles hours after Putin told Trump he would sign up for a partial and temporary ceasefire is not a good augury. Talks for a full ceasefire are expected to continue this weekend in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah — a flawed, short-term one will not serve the cause of peace or Ukrainian sovereignty.

CLOSER TO CARE

Move to equip district hospitals with cancer care is welcome.

Technology must be used to reduce resource deficits

ACCORDING TO THE Indian Council of Medical Research, India had more than 14 lakh cancer patients in 2023. Experts reckon that this figure is very likely an underestimate — the actual disease burden could be 1.5 to 3 times more than the reported cases. Though India has a screening programme for cervical, oral and breast cancers — these constitute more than a third of the country's cancer burden — detection rates are among the lowest in the world. Late detection of malignancy, and therefore late initiation into treatment, is amongst the biggest public health challenges in the country. The problem is particularly serious in rural areas. That's why the government's initiative to equip all district hospitals with a cancer care centre is much-needed. According to a blueprint drawn up by the Union health ministry, every such facility will have an or a medical officer, along with two nurses, a pharmacist and a multi-purpose worker.

The number of cancer specialists required by the country varies according to surveys. However, even by conservative estimates, India is short of at least 2,000 oncologists. Some district centres, especially in the Northeast and Kerala, do offer specialised cancer care. However, at least 50 per cent of oncologists operate from urban centres. Drafting specialists could, therefore, be a challenge for the new programme. For starters, the government could upscale the use of mobile clinics in rural areas. A large section of patients, many of them women, do not come forward for screening. The new initiative could link up with hospitals which send teams to people's doorsteps and work sites for diagnostic tests. Policymakers should also find ways to encourage the use of digital tools, such as telemedicine, at the new rural cancer units and link them through the National Cancer Grid. This will allow the exchange of expertise between rural and urban facilities.

Cancer treatment can be emotionally taxing and patients in rural areas face additional mental health challenges due to limited support groups. That's why several patients discontinue therapy. The provision of counseling services at the new centres could help ensure continuity in treatment. This could be complemented with telehealth counseling services to provide mental health support to rural patients. The government would do well to use advancements in technology to mitigate deficits in resources.

A TIMELESS TALE

One might imagine red tape to be a modern-day affliction.

It turns out the ancient Sumerians got there first

ONE MAY IMAGINE the endless forms and serpentine queues outside government offices to be modern-day afflictions. But, as it turns out, their roots go back more than 4,000 years — to the ancient Sumerians. The cradle of civilisation didn't just come up with the wheel, writing, and the first empire in history — it also gave the world its first red tape. Archaeologists from the British Museum and Iraq have recently unearthed hundreds of administrative tablets from the ancient city of Girsu (modern-day Tello in Iraq), revealing that the temple state was obsessed with bureaucracy.

The Akkadian empire lasted from 2300 to 2150 BC and, under its first ruler Sargon, it began developing a meticulous administrative system, whose purpose seems to have been to ensure that nothing slipped through the cracks. From the weight of a fattened cow or a 30-litre barrel of beer to inventories of grain or expenses on items as vastly different as gemstones and fish, from records of personnel to the nature of their employment, everything was recorded in cuneiform script on stone tablets. These became part of the state archive, passed down as templates for governance. The ruling class's fascination with bureaucracy has historical antecedents in other civilisations too. In ancient Egypt, the pharaohs had entire departments dedicated to tallying bricks, measuring stone blocks, and recording the hours worked by each labourer. Meanwhile, under the Zhou dynasty (1046–256 BC), the imperial court in China had a dizzying array of officials whose job was to codify and standardise nearly every aspect of life. By the time the Han Dynasty (206 BC–220 AD) rolled in, the Chinese had mastered even the art of civil service examinations — among its many requirements was the ability to recite vast swathes of Confucian texts.

Of course, little of the tangled web of rules made for an enviable experience for those at the receiving end of the scrutiny. The Sumerian tablets elsewhere, for instance, show complaints against a particularly inefficient but influential member of a merchants' guild. The conveniences of the digital era notwithstanding, not much has changed: Bureaucracy's ability to test one's patience remains timeless.



DAVID S JONES

AS THE EQUINOX approaches and the Sun rises higher in the sky, people throughout the Northern Hemisphere wonder: How hot will it get? They have good reason to worry. 2023 had been the hottest year on record until 2024 left it far behind. 2025 is already off to a hot start. Delhi experienced its warmest February in decades and Mumbai has already suffered a heat wave. The India Meteorological Department predicts that March might be the hottest on record. The heat will only intensify in spring and summer. People in India — and around the world — will die from the heat.

Our continuing vulnerability to heat is a vexing problem. Humans have known that heat can kill for thousands of years. Aristotle and other ancient Greek philosophers believed that humans could not survive in the tropics. When Vasco da Gama ventured around Africa to India in the 15th century, Europeans recognised this error: Other humans did live in hot climates around the world. Europeans learned from them how to adapt their food, clothing, and daily activities to survive the heat — they did this in part by enslaving or indenturing people from Africa and India to labour for them.

Scientists, meanwhile, gained growing respect for human resilience. They had long known that humans and other warm-blooded animals could generate heat to stay warm. In the 18th century, they learned that human bodies could also radiate heat through sweating and evaporative cooling. Scientific journals and popular magazines popularised great feats of heat tolerance, from baker's girls who could walk into hot ovens at temperatures well over 100°C to a "human salamander" who entertained carnival-goers by sitting in an oven that was hot enough to cook a raw steak and eggs, which he then proceeded to eat.

The relationship between humans and heat, however, had begun to change. Scientists in Europe and the United States realised by the early 1800s that cities were consistently warmer than the countryside around them — the "urban heat island" effect. Heat was no

longer something that just happened, it was something humans were fuelling. Heat waves received growing attention in the world's newspapers. The Times of India regularly featured heat waves around the world. Heat in Australia in 1897 caused "severe suffering". London in 1900 felt like "a witches' caldron". When Calcutta hit 40°C in 1905, horses, bullocks, and several Europeans died. Terrible heat struck Chicago, New York, London, and Budapest in 1928. Alwar city in Rajasthan set a record for the highest temperature ever measured in India, reaching 50.6°C in 1956. Phalodi broke this in 2016, hitting 51.0°C.

Doctors knew well that such heat could kill. Early medical investigators in the United States focused on young men and women who laboured in hot factories. By the 1960s, however, health officials worried most about people who were elderly and poor or had health conditions like heart disease that left them susceptible. Europe has reported the highest death tolls, with over 60,000 heat-related deaths in 2022. India has been relatively spared — if the numbers are to be trusted. Odisha hit 49.5°C in 1998, leaving 1,300 people dead. A heat wave in 2015 killed over 1,000 in Andhra Pradesh; 2,500 died across India. Despite the record heat in 2024, the government reported just 360 deaths, though another analysis put the toll at 733.

The relationship between humans and heat continues to change. Heat waves, once simply a natural phenomenon, are now a symptom of global warming. In the 1980s, scientists became confident that the combustion of fossil fuels fuelled a "greenhouse effect" and global warming. Temperatures in 2024 were 1.5°C hotter than pre-industrial levels. Scientists are especially concerned about the combination of heat and humidity, which can be measured as the "wet-bulb temperature". When the wet-bulb temperature exceeds 35°C, human bodies cannot radiate the heat produced by our basic metabolism.

bolic activities. Prolonged exposure to such heat is lethal. Some scientists put the limit at a wet-bulb temperature of just 31°C.

Another concern is the variability of heat exposure — a subject my colleagues and I are meeting in Delhi this week to discuss at the India 2047: Building a Climate-Resilient Future dialogue. While weather reports reflect the average temperature reached in a city, the actual heat experienced by individuals depends on exactly where they live and work within that city, and whether they have access to air conditioning. Studies in Ahmedabad have shown that heat exposure can vary dramatically even within a single apartment building. Even if a city's forecast high temperature is tolerable, many people might actually experience life-threatening heat.

Last May, media around the world reported that Delhi had hit 52.9°C. Had that been confirmed, it would have broken Phalodi's 2016 record of 51.0°C for the hottest temperature ever measured in India. Officials quickly realised that the thermometer had malfunctioned and the actual temperature was just 49.9°C. But even if Phalodi's bragging rights remain intact, it seems likely that that record will fall someday soon, if not in Delhi, then somewhere else.

Will catastrophic futures come to pass? Human bodies might continue to surprise us with their ability to withstand hot conditions. Human societies might find new ways to innovate and adapt. More and more cities have developed heat action plans. Countries could work together to take bold action to slow and then reverse the greenhouse effect. What will it take to motivate such action and mobilise the resources needed to achieve it? We all hope that the direst scenarios will never come to pass, but hope is not enough. We must act.

The writer is the A Bernard Ackerman Professor of the Culture of Medicine at Harvard University



SHUBHRA GUPTA

MANY HOT-BUTTON THEMES form *Adolescence*, the devastating new show now streaming on Netflix, in which a 13-year-old British schoolboy is arrested for murdering his female classmate. Childhood. Boyhood. Parenthood. Policing, in and out of the house. And the overarching power of social media, which has taken over our lives.

Each is given equal weightage in this brilliantly-written, magnificently-performed, shot-in-a-single-take four-part limited series, which is set in a small British town, but could well be playing out anywhere in the world. Everything comes down to the central, burning question: What is it like navigating masculinity in today's world? What is it like being a boy?

Being 13 has always been tricky: Age-old metrics tell us that that's the point when you leave your childhood behind and step into the in-between place where everything — from sprouting hormones, bodily changes, to the rules of behaviour-and-engagement — begins feeling at once urgent and confusing.

But there are no manuals to tell you how to act. What is proper, what is not? Will you come across as a wuss if you do not ask a girl out, and if you muster the courage to do so, and she turns you down, what will you do with the shame and disappointment? If you're lucky, you will learn how to deal with pimples and rejection; if not, the fear that you could end up doing something you will regret, is clear and present.

The real question that hits you like a ham-

Do You Like Me?

At the heart of 'Adolescence', questions that tap into anxieties of a fragile age

Likeability is our secret weapon. We all love to be liked. But when you are stepping into teenage, an unformed vessel just waiting to be filled, you are unsure. You are about to encounter the minefield of attraction, and attendant sexual impulses: How do you know if someone likes you? Will you be accepted? Or will you always be an "incel" as a bullying girl indicates on your Instagram timeline via a series of jeering emojis? How many "likes" will those emojis elicit from an ecosystem filled with other troubled adolescents, toughing it out in the playground and the lockers and the classroom, the way Jamie is?

Do you like me? Likeability is our secret weapon. We all love to be liked. But when you are stepping into teenage, an unformed vessel just waiting to be filled, you are unsure. You are about to encounter the minefield of attraction, and attendant sexual impulses: How do you know if someone likes you? Will you be accepted? Or will you always be an "incel" as a bullying girl indicates on your Instagram timeline via a series of jeering emojis? How many "likes" will those emojis elicit from an ecosystem filled with other troubled adolescents, toughing it out in the playground and the lockers and the classroom, the way Jamie is?

Adolescence is a hard watch, and it doesn't let us off the hook even once, maintaining breakpoint tension right through. We learn early on that the police have enough strong evidence for the arrest, and we see Jamie's family move from befuddled to resignation, as he moves through the system — the solicitor, the arresting officers, the other cogs-in-the-wheel at the police station stepping up as and when required.

The police procedural has its place, but the

real purpose here is to show how an incident like this, if you can call a murder an incident, can impact everyone involved. In the heart-breaking final episode, Jamie's father (Stephen Graham, also the show's co-creator along with director Philip Barantini) and mother (Christine Tremarco) are left, sitting side by side on their bed, asking each other if they did enough. They thought he was safe in his room, but they had no idea of the seductive dangers of the social media he was mainlining.

The questions we are left with are: the show wisely refrains from handing out glib answers. Would Jamie's parents have known what to do even if they had been aware of the extent to which Jamie was being influenced by what he was ingesting? How would Jamie's father, who had been raised by a father at a time when handing out a slap or two was considered the norm, be able to parse the shorthand that stands in for your standard teenage chatter? How much of generational trauma, passed down the line, becomes our parenting style without us even realising it?

And how do you prevent self-appointed social media gurus from tapping into the anxieties and insecurities of fragile young people? How do we detach toxicity from masculinity? I haven't seen anything with the weight and importance of *Adolescence* in a long time: It should be made mandatory viewing.

shubhra.gupta@expressindia.com



MARCH 20, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

ARMY IN AHMEDABAD

THE ARMY WAS called out in Ahmedabad and the entire walled city was placed under an indefinite curfew following innumerable incidents of looting and arson reported from the city as a sequel to the killing of six people in group clashes and police firings in the Dariapur and Kalupur localities. The police fired 40 rounds and more than 360 shells of tear gas.

ZIA MAKES CHANGES

PAKISTAN MILITARY RULER Mohammad Ziaul Haq decreed a constitutional amend-

ment saying that all orders he issued after he seized power in 1977 would not be repealed or altered without a presidential sanction. He issued another decree, before the opening of a new Parliament relaxing his own stiff conditions for future constitutional amendments.

BUDGET & INFLATION

CONTRARY TO THE assurances being given by the government, the Union budget is bound to have an inflationary impact. Over and above the huge budgetary deficit, the Union government has advised all public sector units to generate additional internal resources to finance their plan programmes.

As a result, the prices of key products like fertilisers, coal and power apart from telecommunication rates, air fares and port charges are likely to be raised soon.

ATTACHE STILL MISSING

THE MASSIVE MANHUNT launched by the Delhi Police to trace the missing Soviet attache, Igor Gueja, failed to yield any dues. For the third consecutive day, police officials kept a watch at the city's railway stations and airports but drew a blank again. The search was extended to cover every nook and cranny of the city and policemen visited hotels, guest houses and private nursing homes.

TWO DAYS AFTER NAGPUR VIOLENCE

Aurangzeb not relevant now, says RSS leader Ambekar, condemns violence

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

AS THE BJP-led Maharashtra government fights the fires over Aurangzeb, with its leaders seeking the razing of his tomb, the RSS has said that the Mughal Emperor is not relevant anymore.

However, the Sangh has condemned the violence over demands for removal of the tomb, which erupted two days ago in Nagpur, not far from the RSS headquarters. The statement was made by RSS national publicity in-charge Sunil Ambekar in Bengaluru, addressing a press conference on the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha Baithak of the RSS to be held between March 21 and 23 in the town.

A question on whether Aurangzeb, who died 300 years ago, was relevant today and if his tomb should be removed, Ambekar said: "I think (he is) not relevant." On the Nagpur violence, he added: "I think any type of violence is not good for society. The police have taken cognisance



Paramilitary personnel keep vigil amid curfew in parts of Nagpur on Wednesday. ANI

of it and will go into the details."

Clashes broke out in Nagpur Monday evening after rumours spread that a holy book had been desecrated during a demonstration by the VHP and Bajrang Dal seeking the razing of Aurangzeb's tomb, located in Khuldabad in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (formerly Aurangabad) district.

On Tuesday, speaking in the Assembly, Chief Minister

Devendra Fadnavis, who also holds the Home portfolio, suggested that the violence was pre-planned. "We found a trolley full of stones as well as weapons, which have been seized. Selected houses and establishments were targeted (in the violence)."

At the meeting of the ABPS, the highest decision-making body of the RSS where representatives of all its 32 organisations such as

the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch and Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram etc will participate, two resolutions would be passed, one on Bangladesh and the other on the road ahead for the RSS, Ambekar said.

"The resolution on Bangladesh will deal with what's happening in the country and what should be done about it. Everyone is aware of the atrocities on Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh. We want that the pride and sensitivity of Hindus should be respected, wherever they are in the world," the Sangh leader said.

The second resolution at the ABPS meeting will be about the RSS completing hundred years later this year. "It has been a long journey. The resolution will express gratitude towards the society and spell out programmes that the RSS will take up in the future," Ambekar said, adding that in the centenary year, the Sangh will reach out to all sections of society and take its ideas to them. "There

will also be an effort to increase

the participation of people from all walks of life in the Sangh's programmes," he added, specifically mentioning the 'Panch Parivartan' programme, which encompasses "promoting equality and fraternity (Samarasta)", "adopting an environment-friendly lifestyle", "reviving family values", "fostering a sense of self rooted in Bharatiya values", and "encouraging civic responsibility".

The Sabha will also provide Sangh workers from across the country a chance to talk about the situation and work done in their region, he said, and organise training sessions for them. Ambekar said more and more youngsters were getting drawn to the RSS, putting the number of youngsters who had reached out through the Sangh website at more than 1.2 lakh.

Among those the RSS meeting will pay homage to is Abbakka Chowta, a 16th-century woman ruler who fought the Portuguese. The first Tulula Queen of Ullal in Karnataka, her 500th birth anniversary is coming up in 1525.

THE ALLEGED sexual abuse of students by the 54-year-old head of department and chief proctor of a government-aided college in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras was flagged to the college and district administration in October 2023, only to be brushed under the carpet – until an anonymous complainant gained the courage to blow the lid off the case last month.

The professor, Rajnish Kumar, was booked by the Hathras police on Saturday for allegedly raping several women students and filming the act. He is currently on the run.

Officials *The Indian Express* spoke to said a letter, purportedly written by a college student, was submitted to the District Magistrate in October 2023, first flagging the alleged incidents.

"Following the complaint, the then District Magistrate formed a committee to probe the matter, but its report was never made public," said an official.

When *The Indian Express* contacted the current Hathras District Magistrate, Rahul Pandey, he said he was not aware of the committee and the matter came to his knowledge a couple of days ago.

"We have formed a (new)

committee to probe the matter, which includes the Basic Sikhs Adhikari, the Circle Officer, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and a woman tehsildar," said Pandey.

In 2023, the college had also appointed an internal complaints committee to probe the allegations.

The principal, however, told *The Indian Express* the allegations could not be proved. "The girl who had filed the complaint told us someone had used her identity to file the complaint and that she was never sexually assaulted by the professor," the principal claimed.

He claimed the woman also signed an affidavit confirming this and saying the complaint was filed to tarnish the reputation of the college and the professor.

Some students *The Indian Express* spoke to recalled that the teachers had asked them if the professor had ever misbehaved with them, and they had to sign a sheet of paper stating he hadn't.

While Kumar managed to survive the last round of allegations, on February 15, the district administration received a fresh complaint. This time, however, it was accompanied by purported videos and photos of the sexual abuse. "Two complaints were filed – one with the National Commission for Women and the other with the

district administration," an official said.

According to the police, the complaints were anonymous, with the complainant writing that she anticipated a threat to her life. "We began an inquiry into the matter," said

Superintendent of Police, Hathras, Chiranjeev Nath Sinha, adding that an FIR was eventually filed on March 13 for alleged rape, sexual intercourse by a person in authority and the IT Act.

Officials say they believe the videos go back four to five years and at least six students may have been targeted.

On March 15, the college administration suspended Kumar from all positions, the principal said.

"He was an alumnus of Aligarh Muslim University and was appointed by the Uttar Pradesh Uchchatar Shiksha Sewa Aayog," the principal said.

Sinha, the Hathras Superintendent of Police, said Kumar allegedly sexually assaulted women under the pretext of helping them get jobs or pass exams. "He allegedly recorded videos and uploaded them on websites," the SP said.

According to police, some of the purported videos appear to have been shot in his department. Sources said he had stored them in a pen drive, which he forgot in college one day, blowing the case wide open.

BOTH SENT TO 14-DAY JUDICIAL CUSTODY

Woman, male friend kill husband, store body parts in tank

AMIT SHARMA
MEERUT, MARCH 19

in the city, did not surrender. His lawyer said he too will surrender once he reaches the city.

As per the police, the eight accused were produced before the Judicial Magistrate First Class court. An official said the police did not seek police custody of the accused and sought that they be sent to magisterial custody. After they were granted magisterial custody, advocate Sanjay Balpande, representing the activists, filed a bail plea. The court then released them on bail on a cash deposit of Rs 3,000 each.

According to the FIR lodged at the Ganeshpeth police station, the organiser of the protest to remove Aurangzeb's tomb, Rahul Narainwala (joint secretary, Bajrang Dal), had sought legal permission for the same. The protest was scheduled for 11:30 am on Monday. As per the FIR, the police had forbade VHP and Bajrang Dal activists to burn the effigy of the Mughal emperor, yet the workers violated the order. This was the first FIR registered by the police.

As per the FIR, the VHP and Bajrang Dal workers named as accused were identified as Dr Ramchandra Dubey Maharaj, Amol Thakre, Govind Shende, Kamal Haryani, Lakhman Kuril, Sushil Chaurasiya, Rushabh Arkhel, Shubham Arkhel and Mukesh Barapatre, central Nagpur president. Of them, only Shende, in charge of Maharashtra and Goa, who is not

believed she was visiting the mountains with her husband," Ayush Vikram Singh, SP, Meerut city, said.

On Monday evening, Muskaan and Shukla returned to their respective houses in Meerut in connection with the murder of her husband, whose body was chopped into several parts and the pieces dumped in a tank filled with liquid cement, police said on Wednesday. The police identified the victim as Saurabh Rajput, 29, and the accused as Muskaan (Saurabh's wife) and Sahil Shukla, 26.

According to the police, on the night of March 4, Muskaan laced Saurabh's food with intoxicants, following which he fell unconscious. The two accused then allegedly murdered him.

"Muskaan's mother has agreed to take custody of her granddaughter," SP Singh said on Wednesday. Saurabh's elder brother Rahul registered an FIR at the Brahmputra police station late Tuesday evening. "My brother and Muskaan had a love marriage in 2016. He was with the Merchant Navy at the time but quit in 2019 after which he was employed as a sales manager at a mall in London," Rahul said.

Charged under BNS sections 101, 238, the accused were presented in a local court in Meerut on Wednesday. Shukla was roughed up allegedly by some of the lawyers there before he was taken to the courtroom, sources said. The court sent the duo to judicial custody for 14 days.

Family of slain BJD minister Naba Das want CBI probe into 2023 murder

SUJIT BISOYI
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 19

THE FAMILY of Biju Janata Dal minister Naba Das urged Odisha's BJP government to hand over the investigation into the 2023 murder of the leader to CBI.

Das's wife Minati, son Vishal and daughter and former MLA Dipali met Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi to discuss issues related to the probe, currently done by the Crime Branch of Odisha Police, the family said. This comes a day after the state government announced that it was reopening the probe.

Das was fatally shot by a policeman on January 29, 2023. Three-time MLA Das was the state's health and family welfare minister at that time. "On behalf of the family, we have requested a CBI probe into the matter. The CM has given us confidence for a proper and an impartial inquiry into the matter considering all aspects," Dipali said.

Officials told *The Indian Express* that the CM had assured the family of a thorough probe, especially into the allegation that he could have been killed due to a business or a political rivalry.

An FIR registered after his death said that a police officer on traffic duty, ASI Gopal Das, fatally shot Das from point-blank range while the latter was getting out of his car in Brahmapur, Jharsuguda district, on January 29, 2023.

The trial in the case is still in progress.

RAJOURI DEATHS

Around 6 toxins found in bodies: J&K Minister

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, MARCH 19

THE JAMMU and Kashmir government Wednesday said that medical institutions from different parts of the country had detected traces of nearly half a dozen toxins in the bodies of 17 villagers who mysteriously died in Rajouri district's Badhal village and the food samples collected from there.

Replies to a question by the National Conference MLA Javeed Iqbal Choudhary in the Legislative Assembly, Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Ito said the clinical reports, lab tests and environmental samples indicate that the incidents are not due to a communicable disease of bacterial or viral origin.

CFSL Chandigarh found chlorphenapyr in the viscera samples of all deceased," she said.

The minister's reply prompted the legislators to ask the government to order a CBI inquiry. "Why will someone give poison to innocent people," asked Choudhary, regretting that the exact cause is still not known.

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Replies to a question by the National Conference MLA Javeed Iqbal Choudhary in the Legislative Assembly, Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Ito said the clinical reports, lab tests and environmental samples indicate that the incidents are not due to a communicable disease of bacterial or viral origin.

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'Tale of determination', 'Earth missed you': President, PM hail return of Sunita Williams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leaders of political parties and chief ministers from several states on Wednesday welcomed NASA astronaut Sunita Williams to Earth after nine months. The leaders called her an inspiration for generations to come and lauded her determination.

NASA astronauts Williams, Nick Hague and Butch Wilmore and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov returned early Wednesday on board SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, which splashed down off Florida. For Williams and Wilmore, test pilots for Boeing's new Starliner capsule, an eight-day mission stretched to more than nine months.

President Droupadi Murmu said in a post on X that India's daughter and her fellow astronauts have inspired everyone with their perseverance, dedication and never-say-die spirit.

"Congratulations to the entire team behind the safe return of NASA's Crew 9 mission on Earth! Their historic journey is a tale of determination, teamwork and extraordinary courage. I salute their unwavering resolve and wish them excellent health!" she said.

"Welcome back, #Crew9! The Earth missed you," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his post. "Sunita Williams, a trailblazer and an icon, has exemplified this spirit

Very, very happy': Her extended family in Gujarat

RITU SHARMA
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 19

AMONG THOSE closely watching the SpaceX Dragon capsule splashdown off the Florida coast on Tuesday were Dinesh Raval, 84, his grandson Karam, and other members of the Pandya and Raval families in Jhulasan village of Mehsana, about 50 kms from Ahmedabad.

Sunita Williams—'Suni' to her family—and Barry Wilmore returned to Earth after nearly nine months of being stuck in space.

Raval, whose father and Williams' father late Deepak Pandya were brothers, says the family has spent months worry-

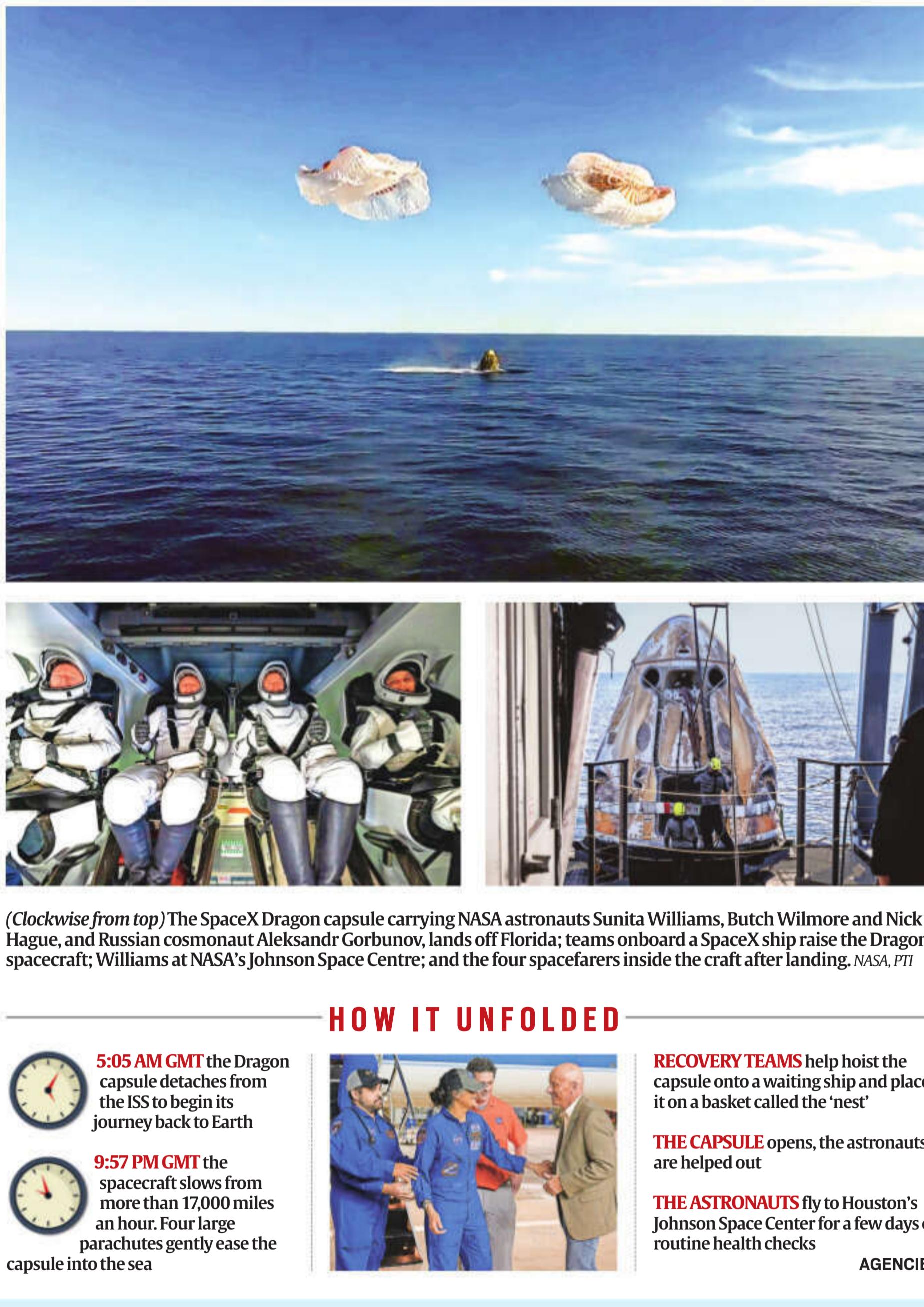
ing about her. Members of her extended family and neighbours did yagnas and held prayer meetings for weeks back in Jhulasan. "She had visited us just before she set off to command the International Space Station (ISS), and spent three days with us in our home in Maryland, United States," said Raval. Most of his family lives in the US, including his wife.

His grandson Karam, who stays with him in Ahmedabad, also proudly watched his grandaunt make the splashdown and told this newspaper, "We are very, very happy."

Williams first visited Gujarat and Jhulasan in 2007 and then again in 2013.

SPLASHDOWN

NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, whose eight-day ISS mission stretched to over 9 months, splashed down in the waters off Florida in a Space X capsule on Wednesday. Also in the spacecraft were NASA's Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov.



(Clockwise from top) The SpaceX Dragon capsule carrying NASA astronauts Sunita Williams, Butch Wilmore and Nick Hague, and Russian cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, lands off Florida; teams onboard a SpaceX ship raise the Dragon spacecraft; Williams at NASA's Johnson Space Centre; and the four spacefarers inside the craft after landing. NASA, PTI

HOW IT UNFOLDED



5:05 AM GMT the Dragon capsule detaches from the ISS to begin its journey back to Earth



9:57 PM GMT the spacecraft slows from more than 17,000 miles an hour. Four large parachutes gently ease the capsule into the sea



RECOVERY TEAMS help hoist the capsule onto a waiting ship and place it on a basket called the 'nest'

THE CAPSULE opens, the astronauts are helped out

THE ASTRONAUTS fly to Houston's Johnson Space Center for a few days of routine health checks

AGENCIES

Rajasthan tables Bill on coaching centres to curb student suicides

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, MARCH 19

TO CURB student suicides, the Rajasthan government Wednesday tabled the Rajasthan Coaching Centres (Control and Regulation) Bill, which makes it mandatory for all coaching centres to register. It imposes a penalty of ₹2 lakh for the first violation, ₹5 lakh for the second, and cancellation of its registration for any subsequent ones.

The Rajasthan government said the Bill aims to "curb the commercialisation of coaching institutes and ensure that they operate within a framework pri-

oritising the well-being and success of students. By regulating these centres, the State aims to create a healthier and more supportive environment for aspirants pursuing their academic and professional goals."

"Over the past two decades,

the State of Rajasthan has wit-

nessed an unchecked proliferation

of coaching centres. These

centres often operate in a largely

unregulated environment, luring

lakhs of students every year

with promises of guaranteed

success in competitive examina-

tions such as NEET, IIT-JEE, IIM

entrance tests, and CLAT. The

false claims and high-pressure

environment fostered by many

of these institutes result in wide-spread disillusionment and despair among students when outcomes do not match expectations. Tragically, this often leads to heightened stress levels and, in several instances, even suicides," the government said, adding that it "recognises the gravity of this situation."

The Bill essentially aims to register, control, regulate and determine minimum standards and requirements for registration of coaching centres; to take care of interests of students and provide them career guidance and psychological counselling for mental well-being; to take appropriate measures to provide security and

As part of the law, a Rajasthan

Coaching Centres (Control and Regulation) Authority will be constituted at the state and district level having the same powers as that of civil court. The state's higher education secretary will be the ex-officio chairman of the state level authority while the district collector will be the chairman of the district level authority. The authority will have the mandate to enforce the regulations under the law and penalise the offenders.

The state-level authority will have representatives from all the education departments, the Director General of Police or

his nominee, a psychiatrist, and representatives from the coaching centres and parents of the students, among others. The district level authorities will have the chief medical and health officer, a psychiatrist, representatives from coaching centres, parents of students, etc. as members.

The Bill, once enacted, will make it mandatory for all the coaching centres to be registered, while the existing ones will have to get registered within three months of the Act coming into force; each branch will have to get registered separately.

No.AR-15012/1/2024-SECT-1-AR|109

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE
REFORMS & TRAINING
CIVIL SECRETARIAT, BLOCK NO.4,
5TH FLOOR ITANAGAR - 791111

Dated, Itanagar the 17th March, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Concerning the Public Notice issued vide No.AR-15012/1/2024-SECT-1-AR/637 dated 4th December, 2024 and subsequent Public Notice No. AR-15012/1/2024-SECT-1-AR dated 21st January, 2025, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh is pleased to further extend the closing date for submission of applications from the citizens of India to fill up the post of Chairperson and Member, Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC). The last date for submission of application is extended up to 30th April 2025.

The detailed information about the job profile and expectations of the State Government from the proposed Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) and the terms of appointment and format for submission of application are available on the website "<https://arungovard.nic.in>".

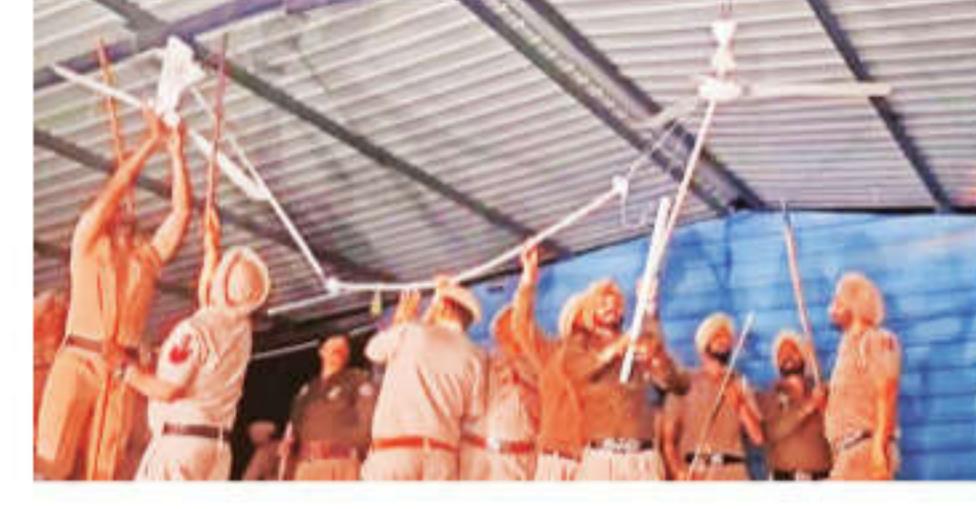
The desiring candidates are requested to check the above website and submit their application along with all its enclosures in electronic format at email secy-part-arn@nic.in on or before 30th April, 2025.

Digital signature by
Mari Angu

Date: 18-03-2025 11:12:19 Joint Secretary to the
Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

(Dr. Mari Angu)

Punjab shield in farmer crackdown: Rising trader anger, low public support



Policemen dismantle the protest site in Khanauri. PTI

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 19

THE PUNJAB government's action against protesting farmers, more than a year after they began their sit-ins at Shambhu and Khanauri border points, comes amid growing signs that the stir was losing public support.

While appeals had been made earlier too by industry bodies about the blockade hurting their bottom lines, as well as the reputation of the state as an investment destination, the immediate trigger for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government was the by-poll to be held for the Ludhiana West seat, which needs to be filled by July 11.

The AAP has already named industrialist-turned-politician Sanjeev Arora, who is currently a Rajya Sabha MP, as its candidate for the seat. The demands of the protest are suffering losses and investors are turning away," he said.

The same day, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann met a delegation of industrialists from Jalandhar, who appealed to him to ensure lifting of the blockade.

A fortnight ago, Mann walked out of a meeting with SKM leaders in another sign of the growing frustration of the state government.

The support for the agitation has also been dwindling among the general public, with the blockades affecting travel along the Punjab-Delhi highway.

Sources said that Wednesday was chosen as the day for the crackdown as the farmer leaders would be away from the protest sites for their talks with the Centre, and hence not surrounded by supporters. Pandher and Dallewal were detained the moment they crossed into Punjab from Chandigarh.

FULL REPORT
www.indianexpress.com

EXPLAINED

Sources said that even at Wednesday's meeting with the Centre held in Chandigarh, Punjab ministers appealed to farmer leaders to lift the blockades for the sake of the traders, who had to spend lakhs extra on transport of goods. However, the farmer leaders reportedly refused the appeal to provide passage.

The farmer leaders present at the talks who were detained soon after they left the venue and entered Punjab border in-

to Punjab from Chandigarh.

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)
STATION HQ (ECHS CELL) CLEMENT TOWN
PHONE NO: 0135-2641234

1. With reference to the advertisement published earlier on 05th Feb and 28th Feb 2025 for medical, para medical ad non-medical staff on contractual basis the following changes are hereby notified:-

Interview Date & time : 29 Mar 2025 (0900hrs to 1300hrs)

Appointment

(a) Medical Specialist , Vac-One (01)
Qualification : MD/MS in specialist concerned /DNB, Min 05 yrs in the Specialty after Post Graduation, Age limit – 70 (Res for ESM 60%)
Remuneration : Rs 1 lakh only (PM)/ Part time @ Rs 15000/- per week @ 3 hrs per day i.e 18hrs per week (conditions apply)
(b) Medical Officer , Vac-One (01)
Qualification : MBBS, Min 05 yrs work experience after internship Preferable addl Qualification in medicine/surgery. Age limit – 68 (Res for ESM 60%)
Remuneration : Rs 75,000/- each (PM)
(c) Female Attendant , Vac-One (01)
Qualification : Literate, Min 05 yrs experience in civil/ Army health institutions. Age limit – 55 (Res for ESM 70%)
Remuneration : Rs 16,800/- (PM)
(d) Dental Assistant , Vac – One (01)
Qualification : Diploma in Dental Hyg/ Class-I DH/DORA Course (Armed forces), Min 05 yrs experience in Dental Lab. Age limit – 58 (Res for ESM 70%)
Remuneration : Rs 28,100/- (PM).

2. Last date of receipt of application as per format alongwith self attested photocopies of testimonials in support of Educational Qualification and work experience will be submitted to OIC, ECHS Cell, Stn HQ Clement Town by 27 Mar 2025 (in duplicate). Any application received after 27 Mar 2025 (1800hrs) will not be accepted. For further details login to (<https://www.echs.gov.in>)

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

Centre for Contemporary Studies

Prime Ministers Museum and Library cordially invites you to a **Public Lecture** on

Struggle and Resistance in the 18th Century Punjab by

Dr. S K Jolly
Senior Fellow, PMML

21 March 2025 at 3:00pm
Venue:

Seminar Room, Library Building
Prime Ministers Museum and Library
Teen Murti House, New Delhi

All are Welcome.

Those wishing to have their names added to the email list may please email us at: ccs2nmml@gmail.com

CBC-09142/12/0043/2425

DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

TOP DEFENCE officers from countries of Quad grouping on Wednesday expressed concern at the Chinese assertive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific, while Indian Navy chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi said that Delhi is closely watching the activities and has acted decisively.

Talking about India's priorities vis-a-vis China in the Indian Ocean Region, Admiral Tripathi said that the Indian Navy needs to ensure that it is ready to take on all the known challenges and be prepared for whatever is yet to come. "We feel that it's our responsibility to ensure that the Indian Ocean Region remains peaceful, tranquil, and should facilitate unhindered movement of trade," he said, adding that India is working with multiple partners and agencies internally and externally, and helping small

island nations. "We are aware that some of the vessels which are here have got a dual role; they are not doing exactly what they tell they are doing. We are keeping a close watch and have acted decisively in many cases to call them out," he said.

During the discussion on 'Deepwater Perils: Securing Trade', Admiral Tripathi said, "One of the attributes of the Navy is that one has to of course keep your ears and eyes open, not only the military domain but also in the geopolitics, technology and the tactics as being employed by both state, quasi-state and non-state actors. So, the aim is that we are not caught unawares or surprised by the turn of events."

Besides Admiral Tripathi, the panel included Admiral Justin Jones, Chief of Joint Operations, Australia; Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command; General Romeo S Brawner, Chief of Army

Staff, the Philippines; and General Yoshihide Yoshida, Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff, Japan. Together, they examined the shifting nature of maritime threats, risks for global security and trade, and the evolving responses required to safeguard vital trade routes, including in the South China Sea.

On the 2027 timeline given by Chinese President Xi Jinping on taking over of Taiwan by the PLA, Admiral Paparo said that whether it's a blockade or a full-scale aggression in the Taiwan Strait, depending on the political condition, "the US shall maintain a capacity to resist any resort to force that jeopardises the social, political, economic system of Taiwan", adding that the US policy remains unchanged.

Admiral Tripathi said that the Indian Navy is working with partners and learning the best practices from them in all domains. "We have to ensure that we are ready to take on all the known challenges. We are reasonably prepared for something which is yet to come," he said.



Families of those aboard missing flight

Malaysia agrees to 'no find, no fee' terms to restart MH370 search

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia has agreed to terms and conditions of an agreement with exploration firm Ocean Infinity to resume the search for the wreckage of the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, its transport minister said on Wednesday. Flight MH370, a Boeing 777, was carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew when it vanished en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing in 2014 in one of the world's greatest aviation mysteries. The decision will enable commencement of seabed search operations in a new location estimated to cover 15,000 sq km in the southern Indian Ocean, based on a "no find, no fee" principle, minister Loke Siew Fook said. Ocean Infinity will receive \$70 million if the wreckage is located. **REUTERS**

UNITED KINGDOM
British teenager who killed family gets 59 yrs in jail

London: A 19-year-old British man who shot and killed his mother and two younger siblings and who wanted to carry out a high-profile school shooting has been told he will not be eligible for parole for at least 49 years. At the sentencing hearing at Luton Crown Court on Wednesday, the judge said she had considered handing Nicholas Prosper a full life order in prison but opted against that given his age and the fact that he had pleaded guilty. Last month, Prosper admitted to murdering his mother Juliana Falcon, 48, his 13-year-old sister Giselle and brother Kyle, 16. **AP**

CHINA
Researcher gets death sentence for espionage

Beijing: A Chinese engineer from a research institute has been sentenced to death for selling classified material to foreign spy agencies, China's Ministry of State Security said on Wednesday. The engineer has identified as Liu. Liu was driven by resentment after believing he had been denied promotions. Before resigning, he secretly copied and retained a large volume of classified materials. After falling into debt, he allegedly reached out to a foreign spy agency, offering intelligence. **PTI**

THE WORLD

ACCEPTS MUTUAL PAUSE IN ATTACKS ON ENERGY TARGETS

In call with Trump, Zelenskyy agrees to limited ceasefire: US

Discusses US ownership of Ukrainian nuclear plants as safety guarantee

THE NEW YORK TIMES & ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV, MARCH 19

PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR Zelensky of Ukraine agreed in a Wednesday phone call with President Trump to accept Russia's offer for a mutual pause in attacks on energy targets as a step toward a broader cease-fire, according to a statement from the Trump administration after a call between the Ukrainian leader and President Trump.

In a social media post, Trump said he had "a very good" hour-long conversation with Zelenskyy, and a later joint statement from his national security adviser and the secretary of state said the talk "significantly helped in moving toward ending the war."

Zelenskyy sounded a similar note in his own social media post, calling the conversation "positive, very substantive, and frank," and making clear that he had thanked Trump for America's support.

It was the first time Trump and Zelenskyy have spoken since their disastrous Oval Office meeting last month, during which Trump and Vice President

Ukrainian prisoners of war return after a swap in an undisclosed location in Ukraine on Wednesday. **Reuters**

JD Vance fumed that Zelenskyy had shown insufficient gratitude for America's backing. The statement from Michael Waltz, the national security adviser, and Marco Rubio, the secretary of state, suggested for the first time that Trump is interested in taking control of Ukraine's electrical and nuclear power sites.

Trump told Zelenskyy that the United States "could be very helpful in running those plants with its electricity and utility expertise," the statement said, adding

that "American ownership of those plants would be the best protection for that infrastructure and support for Ukrainian energy infrastructure."

Russia, Ukraine swap hundreds of prisoners

Russia and Ukraine said Wednesday they had each swapped 175 prisoners in one of the largest exchanges of the war.

Severely wounded soldiers and fighters whom Russia had prosecuted or fabricated

charges were among those released, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

"We are bringing back soldiers, sergeants, and officers — warriors who fought for our freedom in the ranks of the Armed Forces, the Navy, the National Guard, the Territorial Defence Forces, and the Border Guard Service," he said.

Russia's Defence Ministry said it had released an additional 22 severely wounded Ukraine captives "as a goodwill gesture." Zelenskyy said they were returned through a separate negotiation process. There was no immediate comment on why the number was one fewer than the 23 wounded POWs that Russian President Vladimir Putin had promised to release Tuesday when he spoke with Trump about a potential partial ceasefire. Prisoner exchanges have happened throughout the three-year war and the exchange Wednesday had been planned before that call.

The released Ukrainian servicemen had been captured while defending multiple regions, including Mariupol, the Azovstal steel plant, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhia, Sumy, and Kursk.

Turkey govt deters Istanbul's mayor, a top rival of Erdogan

ECE TOKSABAY & EZGI ERKOYUN
ISTANBUL, MARCH 19

TURKEY DETAINED Istanbul mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, the main rival of President Tayyip Erdogan, on charges of corruption and aiding a terrorist group in what the main opposition party on Wednesday called "a coup against our next president".

The move against the popular two-term mayor caps a months-long legal crackdown on opposition figures across the country which has been criticised as a politicised attempt to hurt their electoral prospects and silence dissent.

Imamoglu, 54, who leads Erdogan in some opinion polls, was to be named his Republican People's Party's (CHP) official presidential candidate within days. He now faces two separate investigations that also include charges of leading a crime organisation, bribery and tender rigging.

In a letter shared on social media, the detained mayor said Turks would respond to the "lies, plots

Supporters of Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu gather near the Istanbul police headquarters on Wednesday. **Reuters**

and traps" against him. Earlier, before leaving home for the police station, he said he would not give up in the face of pressure. Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc warned against linking Erdogan to Imamoglu's detention or other legal processes, using words like "coup" to describe it, and also against street protests.

CHP leader Ozgur Ozel said his party would go ahead and select

Imamoglu as presidential candidate Sunday irrespective. "Turkey is going through a coup against the next President. We are facing a coup attempt here," he said.

The next election is set for 2028 but Erdogan has reached his two-term limit as president after having earlier served as prime minister. If he wishes to run again he must call an early election or change the constitution. **REUTERS**

Migrant boat sinks off Italy, 6 killed, over 40 missing

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MILAN, MARCH 19

THE ITALIAN Coast Guard recovered six bodies and was searching for up to 40 migrants missing after a rubber dinghy that departed from Tunisia sank in the central Mediterranean, the UN refugee agency said Wednesday.

Another 10 people, including four women, were rescued Tuesday and brought to Italy's southernmost island of Lampedusa. The Red Cross said they were in good condition and were receiving psychological care. Aircraft from the European border agency Frontex and the Italian coast guard were assisting in the search due to difficult sea conditions, the coast guard said.

Survivors said some 56 people were in the dinghy when it departed from the Tunisian port of Sfax on Monday, UNHCR said.

The boat started to deflate a few hours later. The people on board were from Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Guinea and Mali, the UNHCR said.

RFK Jr wants to let bird flu spread on farms

APOORVA MANDAVILLI
MARCH 19

ROBERT F. Kennedy Jr., the nation's top health official, has an unorthodox idea for tackling the bird flu bedeviling U.S. poultry farms: Let the virus rip.

Instead of culling birds when the infection is discovered, farmers "should consider maybe the possibility of letting it run through the flock so that we can identify the birds, and preserve the birds, that are immune to it," Kennedy said re-

cently on Fox News.

Kennedy does not have jurisdiction over farms. But Brooke Rollins, the agriculture secretary, also has voiced support for the notion.

"There are some farmers that are out there that are willing to really try this on a pilot as we build the safe perimeter around them to see if there is a way forward with immunity," Rollins told Fox News last month.

Yet veterinary scientists said letting the virus sweep through poultry flocks unchecked would be inhumane and dangerous, and have enormous economic

consequences. "That's a really terrible idea, for any one of a number of reasons," said Gail Hansen, a former state veterinarian for Kansas. "So now you're setting yourself up for bad things to happen," Hansen said. "It's a recipe for disaster."

Since January 2022, there have been more than 1,600 outbreaks reported on farms and backyard flocks, occurring in every state. More than 166 million birds have been affected.

Emily Hilliard, deputy press secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services, said

Kennedy's comments were aimed at protecting people "from the most dangerous version of the current bird flu."

"Culling puts people at the highest risk of exposure, which is why Secretary Kennedy and NIH want to limit culling activities," she said. "Culling is not the solution. Strong biosecurity is."

Rollins recommended strengthening biosecurity on farms — preventing the virus from entering their premises, or halting its spread with stringent cleaning and use of protective gear. But that is a long-term solution. **NYT**

Imamoglu as presidential candidate Sunday irrespective. "Turkey is going through a coup against the next President. We are facing a coup attempt here," he said.

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Supporters of Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu gather near the Istanbul police headquarters on Wednesday. **Reuters**

Sudiksha Konanki is a citizen of India and a resident of the US

"We still have two young children to care for and they are at a very tender age. In light of this, we respectfully request some space, time and privacy to focus on healing us and helping our children recover as we try to move forward with our lives."

Sudiksha Konanki is a citizen of India and a permanent resident of the United States. A student at the University of Pittsburgh, Konanki was reported to be vacationing with five female college friends at a resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. She was reportedly missing on March 6.

"It is with deep sadness and a heavy heart that we are coming to terms with the fact that our daughter has drowned. This is incredibly difficult for us to process. We kindly ask you to keep our daughter in your prayers," Konanki's father Subbarayudu Konanki said, as he read out a statement in front of the media.

As he read the statement, his wife Sreedevi, broke down.

Subbarayudu Konanki said:

CLOSED FOR NEARLY A MONTH AFTER CLASHES BETWEEN FORCES PAK, AFGHAN OPEN MAIN BORDER CROSSING

Pakistan and Afghanistan on Wednesday reopened their main border crossing after clashes between the security forces of both sides led to its closure for nearly a month, officials from the two governments said. The Torkham border crossing will be initially opened for trade, Pakistan official Riaz Khan Mehsud told Reuters, and people would be allowed to cross on foot from Friday onwards. **REUTERS**

TO RETAKE KEY NORTH GAZA CORRIDOR

Israeli military begins new Gaza ground ops, orders evacuations

NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI & JAMES MACKENZIE
CAIRO, JERUSALEM, MARCH 19

THE ISRAELI military said on Wednesday its forces have resumed ground operations in the central and southern Gaza Strip, as a second day of airstrikes killed at least 38 Palestinians, according to local health workers.

The renewed ground operations come a day after more than 400 Palestinians were killed in airstrikes in one of the deadliest episodes since the beginning of the conflict in October 2023, shattering a ceasefire that has largely held since January.

The Israeli military said its operations have extended Israel's control over the Netzarim Corridor, which bisects Gaza, and were a "focused" manoeuvre aimed at creating a partial buffer zone between the north and the south of the enclave.

The United Nations said an Israeli airstrike had killed a foreign staffer and wounded five workers at the site of a UN headquarters in central Gaza City on Wednesday.

But Israel denied this, saying it had hit a Hamas site, where it had detected preparations for firing into Israeli territory.

Jorge Moreira da Silva, executive director of the UN Office for Project Services, said: "Israel knew that this was a UN premises, that people were living, staying and working there, it is a compound. It is a very well-known place."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for a full investigation and condemned all attacks on UN personnel.

In Sofia, the foreign ministry said a Bulgarian working for the

Palestinians flee their homes in the northern Gaza Strip on Wednesday. **Reuters**

U.N. died on Wednesday in Gaza, citing preliminary information. It was not immediately clear if the Bulgarian was the foreign U.N. staffer killed in Gaza, Israel, which has vowed to eradicate Hamas, said its latest onslaught was "just the beginning".

Hamas spokesperson Abdel-Latif Al-Qanoua renewed his group's interest in concluding the 3-phased truce deal and would welcome any proposal "as long as it is based on launching negotiations on the second phase and a complete end to the war in Gaza."

Earlier on Wednesday, the Israeli army dropped leaflets in the northern and southern Gaza Strip, once again ordering residents to evacuate their homes. Defence Minister Israel Katz issued a video statement warning Gaza residents that evacuation from combat zones would begin shortly. He said airstrikes were "only the first step" and if the hostages were not released, "Israel will act with force you have not yet seen". **REUTERS**

Hungary's new anti-LGBTQ+ law bans Pride events, sparks ire

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BUDAPEST, MARCH 19

A NEW anti-LGBTQ+ law banning Pride events and allowing authorities to use facial recognition software to identify those attending the festivities was passed in Hungary on Tuesday, leading to a large demonstration on the streets of Budapest.

Several thousand protesters chanting anti-government slogans gathered after the vote outside Hungary's parliament. They later staged a blockade of the Margaret Bridge over the Danube.

The move by lawmakers is part of a crackdown on the country's LGBTQ+ community by the populist prime of Viktor Orban. The measure, which is reminiscent of similar restrictions against sexual minorities in Russia, was passed in a 136-27 vote. The law, backed by Orban's Fidesz party and their minority coalition partner the Christian Democrats, was pushed through parliament after being submitted on Monday.

Opposing legislators led a vivid protest in the legislature involving rainbow-coloured smoke bombs

Administration. The collection was required to be opened by 2017, barring any exemptions designated by the president.

Trump, who took office for his first term in 2017, had said that he would allow the release of all of the remaining records but ended up holding some back because of what he called the potential harm to national security. And while files continued to be released during President Joe Biden's administration, some remained unseen.

Sabato said that his team has a "long, long list" of sensitive documents it is looking for that previously had large redactions. **AP**

EXPERTS LAUD MOVE AS 'ENCOURAGING START' BUT SAY TWO-THIRDS OF PROMISED FILES, INCLUDING RECENTLY FOUND ONES, AREN'T OUT

Trump releases JFK assassination files, sending history buffs hunting for new clues

JAMIE STENGLE
DALLAS, MARCH 19

MORE THAN 63,000 pages of records related to the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy were released following an order by President Donald Trump, many without the redactions that had confounded historians for years and helped fuel conspiracy theories.

The US National Archives and Records Administration posted to its website on Tuesday roughly 2,200 files containing the documents. The vast majority of the

President John F. Kennedy with first lady Jacqueline Kennedy in Dallas in 1963, just before he was shot dead. **AP**

"an encouraging start." He said much of the "rampant over

15

E. EXPLAINED

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

In fresh attacks on Yemen's Houthis, what is US seeking?

EXPERT EXPLAINS



BASHIR ALI ABBAS

THE US this week carried out more than 40 strikes across Yemeni territories in what it called "precision strikes against Iran-backed Houthi targets". US President Donald Trump, in a Truth Social post, addressed both the Houthis (Ansar Allah) and Iran: "To all Houthi terrorists, your time is up and your attacks must stop... To Iran, support for Houthi terrorists must end immediately..."

The Houthis have responded with reciprocal escalatory rhetoric and claimed cruise and ballistic missile attacks on US warships in the Red Sea.

What is the latest trigger in this ongoing conflict in the Middle East?

The Houthis' *casus belli* is inextricably

linked to the conflict in Gaza, which resumed in breach of the ceasefire on March 17, with a new Israeli military operation in Jabalia.

Since December 2023, Houthi attacks in the Red Sea have disrupted shipping lanes, forcing ships to go around the Cape of Good Hope (at Africa's southern tip), or pay much higher insurance premiums if they sail through the Bab-el-Mandeb (effectively the link between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean).

The new anti-Houthi US operations reflect continuity in US policy. Former President Joe Biden listed the Houthis as Specially Designated Global Terrorists in January 2024, and the US Navy began Operation Prosperity Guardian against them in December 2023. The American *casus belli* was always linked to the disruption in shipping. But there is more to Trump's new anti-Houthi focus.

What are President Trump's objectives?

While the US has backed the Saudi-led coalition's Operation Restoring Hope against the Houthis since 2015, the first Trump administration's direct military action in Yemen did not focus entirely on the Houthis. The United States Central Command's public announce-

ments between 2017 and 2020 reflected a focus on striking al-Qaeda and Islamic State targets in Yemen, rather than Ansar Allah. The latter were a more insular group at the time, focused on the civil war and belligerent Arab states. The action in the Red Sea across the last 15 months has evidently changed this, drawing the United States in militarily.

However, attacking the Iran-backed militants in Yemen in a grand spectacle is also arguably Trump's way of avoiding direct escalation or full-blown war with Tehran, while signaling American competence capabilities if Tehran does not negotiate on Trump's terms in potential nuclear talks.

Trump's social media posts drive the Iran-linked objective home. Here, it is crucial to note that neither Trump's posts nor the White House's statement declaring the airstrikes outline any anti-Houthi objectives beyond the need to halt attacks on Red Sea shipping.

How are the Houthis positioned?

The Houthis are veterans of weathering operations that primarily rely on airstrikes. According to the Yemen Data Project, the group withstood at least 20,000 airstrikes from the



A house hit by a US strike in Saada, Yemen, on Sunday. Reuters

Jean-Loup Samaan of the UAE's National Defense College notes that the Houthis did not use missiles until 2015 – even then, their battlefield record was enviable, having survived at least six wars with the former Yemeni government between 2004 and 2010.

Like Hezbollah's 34-day missile barrage against Israel in the 2006 war despite the IDF's intensive air campaign, the Houthis have moved to rely on a rocket, drone, and missile force since 2015. The Houthi yardstick of success has been the maintenance of operational capabilities. Given their continued drone and missile attacks on both military and commercial vessels, this capability evidently remains.

The degree of Iran's control over the Houthis is not easily explained, despite Tehran being the group's chief (but not exclusive) financier. Trump asserted that "Iran has played 'the innocent victim' of rogue terrorists from which they've lost control, but they haven't lost control." While this implies Iran possibly having conveyed such claims in backchannel negotiations, Tehran has never publicly said the Houthis have gone "rogue" (apart from maintaining that Ansar Allah takes its decisions independently).

In any case, the Houthis' backers go beyond Iran, to Russia and China. Beijing's significant purchase of Iranian oil (90% of all Iranian oil exports in 2024) has effectively made it an indirect financier of the Iran-Houthi channel, according to the Atlantic Council. Russian and Chinese diplomatic and political support for the Houthis have allowed their ships to (largely) transit the Red Sea with fewer risks.

Most of the anti-ship cruise missiles used by the Houthis are derivatives (to varying degrees) of old Chinese C-802 Saccade missile designs. Russia's burgeoning ties with the Houthis have also been evident, with greater interactions between Moscow and the group since the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. Russia now reportedly not only provides targeting intelligence to the group, but is also considering greater small arms sales, along with newer anti-ship missiles. Consequently, as several American analysts too assess, sporadic US military actions alone will dent, but may not eliminate the Houthis' offensive capabilities.

Bashir Ali Abbas is a Senior Research Associate at the Council for Strategic and Defense Research, New Delhi

THIS WORD MEANS

SONIC WEAPON

Weapons that deliver loud, painful sounds, allegedly used to disperse protesters in Belgrade, Serbia



Sonic weapons have been used for crowd-control since the early 1990s. Wikimedia Commons

SERBIA'S PRESIDENT Aleksandar Vucic has denied that his police forces used a banned sonic weapon to disperse protesters in the country's capital.

What is a sonic weapon? How do these weapons work?

Sonic weapons are designed to emit loud, often painful sounds that carry over long distances. The use of this technology for crowd-control purposes goes back to the early 1990s.

Such weapons usually comprise hundreds of modern transducers – an electronic device that converts energy from one form to another – to create highly concentrated and amplified sound.

"This fairly narrow beam can focus on specific targeted areas. The sound is designed to be controlled by police officers who can alter the frequency, level, quality, and duration of the alarm," according to a report by Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), a US-based nonprofit organisation.

What are some examples of sonic weapons?

Long-range acoustic device (LRAD): This device is manufactured by US-based Genasys Inc, which was earlier known as the LRAD Corporation. It has a range of 8,900 metres for intelligible speech, and produces a highly directional "beam" of extremely loud sound which can go up to 160 decibels (dB).

This is louder than the sound produced by a nearby gunshot (around 150 dB). "Anything over 140 dB will cause pain for most people, but even sounds over 120 dB can cause permanent hearing damage from even short periods of exposure," according to a report by *The Conversation*.

Mosquito: This device produces very high-pitched sounds that are audible and painful to only younger people – usually teenagers and those in their twenties. It does not affect older people (30 and above).

James Parker, an expert in sound law and the University of Melbourne in Australia, told CNN, "It's not audible to adults because your hearing fades as you get older."

ALIND CHAUHAN

Drishti IAS

Offline & Live Online (Via App)

UPPCS Foundation Course

English Medium | 24 March | 8 AM
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EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

Why euro is rising against dollar

The exchange rate saw a sharp change between Election Day and the day Trump took office, with the euro weakening. But since then, the euro has staged a recovery. Trump's two months in office explain why

UDIT MISRA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

THE DAY the US voted for its next President, November 5, 2024, the euro was equal to 1.0933 US dollars. This exchange rate between the top two currencies of the world saw a sharp change between that day and the day Donald Trump took the oath of office, on January 20. The exchange rate of 1 euro fell to 1.0277 dollars (*See chart*).

This prompted many to believe that the euro was likely to hit parity with the dollar, something it has done just three times since it was created in 1999. But since the inauguration, the euro has staged a recovery and as of March 18, it was back at 1.0942 – almost the same level as on November 5.

On the face of it, these changes, which require to be measured in four decimal places, might appear minuscule. However, when trillions of units of money change hands based on this rate, even these changes can result in very large profits or losses.

What are currency exchange rates?

The exchange rate between two currencies essentially tells you which of the two currencies is more in demand relatively. In this specific case, Americans and Europeans seek each other's currencies for investing in each other's region (either in stocks or government bonds) or for spending money in the other region (European tourists in America, for example) or buying goods and services made in the other region (say, Americans buying a European car).

If demand among Americans for euros outstrips the demand for dollars among Europeans, the exchange rate will reflect it by making euros costlier – that is, by making it "stronger" against the dollar.

Why did the euro fall?

The euro is the common currency of 20 countries (out of 27) in the European Union.

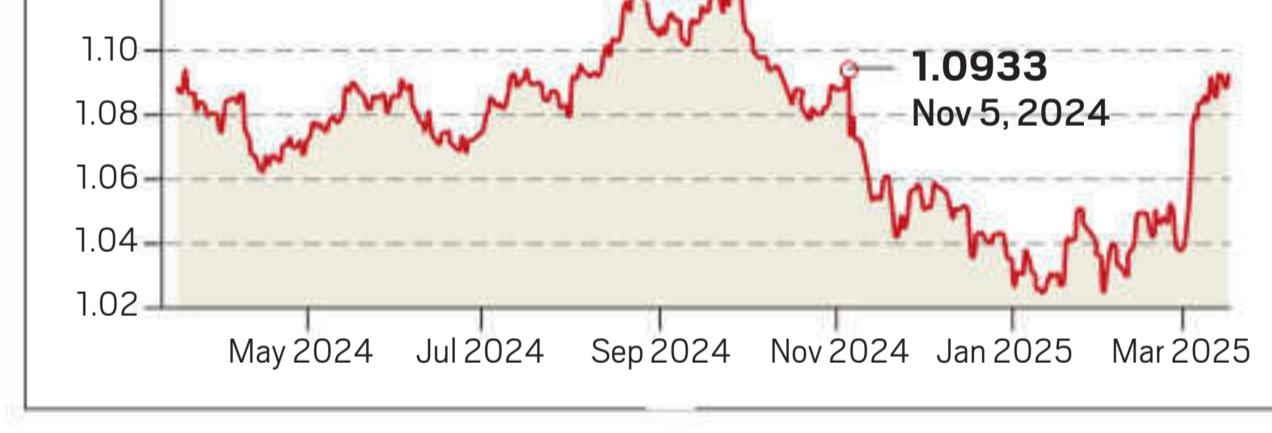
When Trump won, the dominant view in the market was that his policy choices would supercharge the world's largest economy, already growing much faster than all of its developed world cousins.

Trump had promised tax cuts and deregulation during his campaign to "Make America Great Again". Tax cuts would leave US consumers with more money to spend and US firms with more profits. Similarly, deregulation – easing of official norms for doing business – would unleash the entrepreneurial spirits in the US, boosting overall productivity and production. Of course, there was also the prospect of tariffs (which are



US President Donald Trump with Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, in January 2020. The NYT

EURO TO US DOLLAR



commonly seen as counter-productive) but the belief in the market was that Trump was using the threat of tariffs only as a negotiating ploy to get better terms for US exporters.

In sharp contrast, during this phase, the EU cut a sorry figure. Most of its economies were expected to stay in the kind of moribund stagnancy that has become a pattern since the Global Financial Crisis of 2008. On the political front, there was uncertainty, especially among some of the EU's biggest economies such as France and Germany. It looked unlikely that governments would resort to kick-starting the economies by boosting expenditure (fuelled by fresh borrowings).

The European Central Bank, too, was often caught in a bind between cutting interest rates to boost economic growth and employment or keeping them high enough to contain inflation.

The net effect was that investor money flowed to the US, thus weakening the relative demand for euros.

And what caused the reversal?

There are two main reasons:

Worsening prospects of the US economy: Most of Trump's first two months as President has been about imposing tariffs – which effectively work like a tax hike on domestic consumers and dampen overall demand and economic activity. The other area of focus has been trimming the size of the federal government, which, too, crimps overall demand as people lose jobs and businesses lose contracts.

What has been equally, if not more, damaging is the uncertainty that has come with these policy decisions. Between the daily fluctuations of what Trump announces and the legal challenges his decisions face (both inside the country before the judiciary and outside, say, in the World Trade Organisation), market participants/investors aren't sure what is happening.

Many experts now believe the US economy will lose a step or two, if not actually slide into a recession. For instance, according to an interim report titled 'Steering through uncertainty', published by the

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on March 17, "the annual GDP growth in the United States is projected to slow from its strong recent pace (2.8%), to be 2.2% in 2025 and 1.6% in 2026. In other words, in just two years, the US growth rate will be halved as a result of the uncertainties."

Poorer growth prospects are starting to reflect in the stock market as trillions of dollars of investor wealth has already been extinguished. Loss of wealth has its own adverse impact – called negative wealth effect – as people hold back demand because they "feel" poorer.

With weaker growth, there is a good chance that the US Federal Reserve (which runs monetary policy) may cut interest rates. But lower interest rates imply lower returns for investors who buy government bonds.

The net result of faltering stock markets and lower returns from government bonds has been to make investors take out money from the US and look elsewhere.

Improving prospects of EU economies: For many investors, that elsewhere has been Europe. The same OECD report projected the EU's GDP growth to rise from 0.7% in 2024 to 1% in 2025 and 1.2% in 2026.

The odd thing is that it was Trump's aggressive posture on tariffs and security matters (read Ukraine) that shook up the EU leadership and made them look away from fiscal austerity – the norm since the 2008 Global Financial Crisis – and at pushing up growth rates. Led by Germany and France, Europe is beginning to show promise that it can extricate itself from economic stagnancy and become an engine of global growth.

Will this trend sustain?

There is no guarantee, and there are too many ifs and buts.

It will be instructive to watch what the US Federal Reserve Chairman Jay Powell says as he announces the monetary policy stance on March 19. Another date to watch out for is April 2, when Trump has promised to place reciprocal tariffs.

What is the impact on India?

As the dollar weakens, the rupee has strengthened from 87.5 to a dollar on February 6 to 86.5 as of March 18. A stronger rupee helps reduce inflation because India imports the bulk of its crude oil requirement in dollars. At the same time, the rupee has fallen from 87.4 to a euro on January 5 to 94.5 on March 18. A weaker rupee will help Indian exports to the euro area.

LONGER VERSION ON

indianexpress.com/explained

Could Trump undo Biden-era pardons allegedly signed with 'autopen'?

What is an autopen?

It is a machine of the size of a printer that reproduces signatures of public figures using real ink, thus allowing these figures to autograph thousands of items, from posters to memorabilia. (*Photo alongside*)

The autopen has a robotic arm that can hold a standard pen or pencil and replicate the pre-programmed signature on paper.

When did it come to be used by Presidents?

The idea itself is very old – the so-called "polygraph", which allowed two or more pens to be moved simultaneously by the writer to make copies, was patented in the US by John Isaac Hawkins in 1803.

Thomas Jefferson, the third President (1801-09) acquired the device, calling it "the

finest invention of the present age". In 1809, he wrote that "he could not... live without the Polygraph". (Today, the word 'polygraph' is used for a machine that records a person's physiological indicators while they answer a set of questions, and is used by some law enforcement authorities to detect lies spoken by a subject.)

Harry S Truman (1945-53) is generally recognised as the first President to use an autopen in office. However, the White House autopen remained "a closely guarded secret until Gerald Ford's administration publicly acknowledged its use", ac-



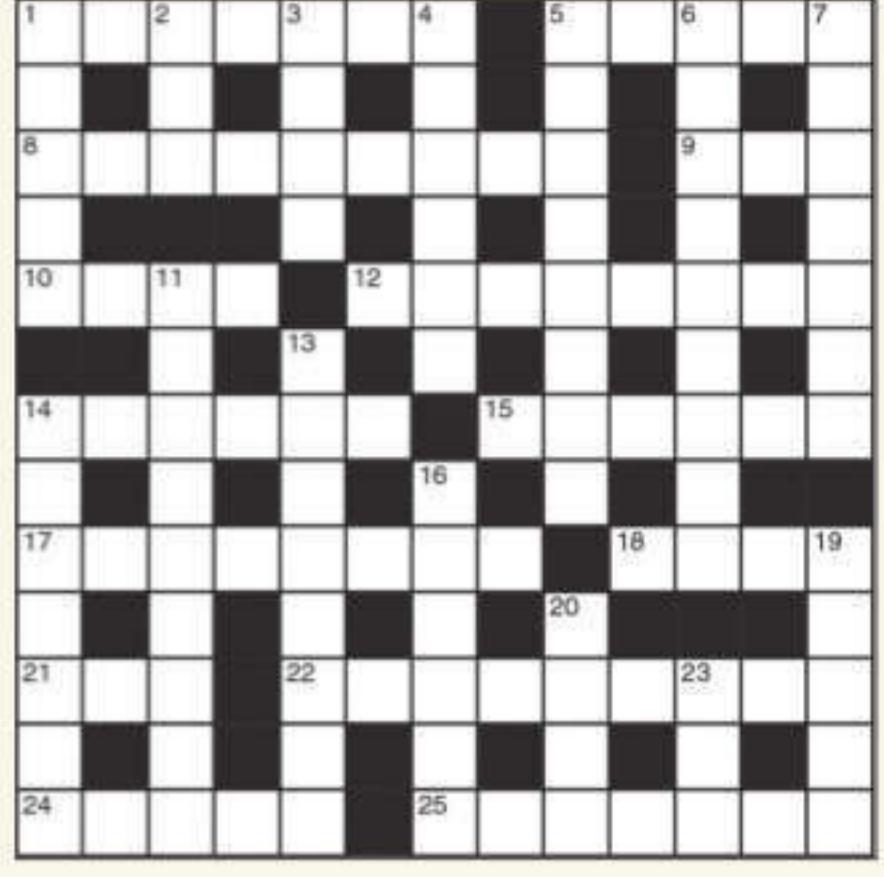
Autopen has an arm that can hold a pen. AP

EXPLAINED SCIENCE

cording to an article in *The Smithsonian Magazine*.

In 2011, Barack Obama used the autopen to sign an extension of the Patriot Act while he was physically in France, attending

CROSSWORD 5628



ACROSS

- Half-baked dessert is hard (7)
- Selects simple tools (5)
- Ocean silt may be stranded here (9)
- Born in the Byzantine era (3)
- Still to come or already gone? (4)
- Certainly in drink but restrained (8)
- Still it acts in a strange way (6)
- He follows movements of stock closely (6)
- Militant starts to work on arranged visit (8)
- Said to be the first man to get a mother (4)
- It comes back frozen solid in a special container (3)
- One shrugs off such vulgarity (9)
- A seed resown may be more contented (5)
- National shopkeepers' home? (7)

DOWN

- Like a point to concentrate on (5)
- Eggs are reported to be finished (3)
- Dot down the first nine letters (4)
- Greeted in stony fashion? (6)
- A request certain to gain preference (8)
- Managed to be somewhat unnatural (9)
- Slight shock initially to one making advances (7)
- Possibly it arrests one guilty of treason (9)
- Erroneously delivers a description of mirrors (8)
- At the shoreline I see sad resort (7)
- Artful kind of statue (6)
- Entertained without a thought (5)
- Villain putting squeeze on the leader (4)
- Sign of hesitation over a long period (3)

Solutions Crossword 5627 Across: 1 Jacobean, 5 Peep, 9 Drill, 10 Inertia, 11 Upright piano, 13 Hedged, 14 Poteen, 17 Property room, 20 Eearche, 21 Exile, 22 Dash, 23 Students Down 1 Judo, 2 Crimped, 3 Belligerence, 4 Alight, Extra, 7 Platoons, 8 Keep your head, 12 Shepherd, 15 Erosion, 16 Street, 18 Ogres, 19 Bass

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



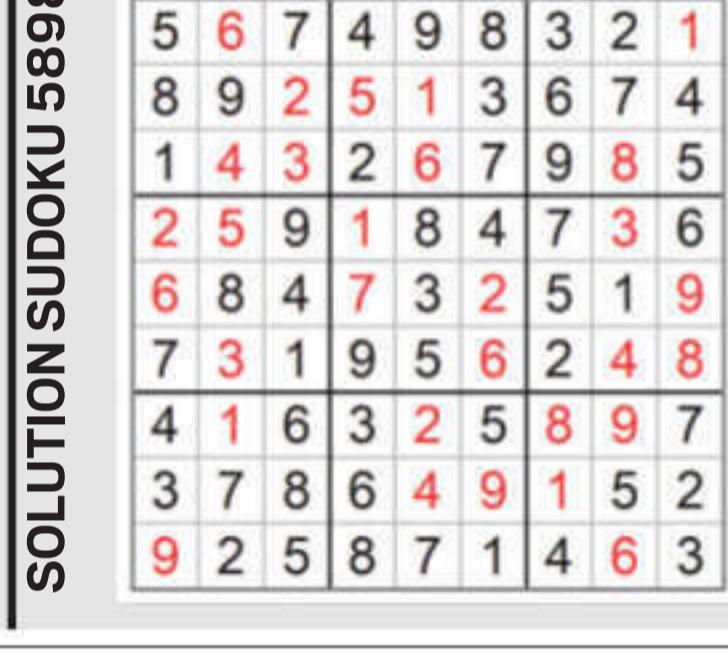
CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 5899
Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



JUMBLED WORDS

Below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

The poet is a madman lost in ____ - Paul Verlaine (9)

VVAAEE	ADERNU
ACKRT	OENRVD

Answers: WAVE, TRACK, UNDERWORLD, VENDEROR - Paul Verlaine

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

It's a mixed and lively moment. It is necessary to return to your financial situation, but don't worry - there are ways to gain from current circumstances. A few of you will benefit from a windfall. The rest of you must use your funds charitably.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Don't beat about the bush or stifle your feelings. Enough has been said and done over the past four or five days to give you all the ammunition you need to turn the tables on a rival. In general, you're in a strong personal position, mainly because you'll be taking sensible safeguards.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Workmates may be in an obstructive mood, yet now that you've come this far, I think that the prospects for financial advances are excellent. It may, though, be necessary to give before you are entitled to receive, and you may have to ask for a favour before you grant one.

CANCER (June 22 - July 20)

You're busy enough, but an additional factor to consider this week, on top of those we have already mentioned, is the important role to be played by friends and associates. The one question to be answered is why certain people are so reluctant to be pinned down.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Relief comes later on in the form of heightened support from people who will encourage you to see the best and look on the bright side. Relationships with children and younger relatives will improve, and partners will like you all the more if you sit down and listen to them, even if you're not interested.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Your mood will change before long. In some respects it may be a case of out of the frying pan into the fire, yet, if you value the stimulation offered by a fresh challenge, you could have a worthwhile time. A quiet life may exclude opportunities.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You really are unstoppable at the moment.

Virtually every planet is solidly lined up in your support, so any mistakes must be put down to your natural Piscean ineptitude rather than to adverse celestial conditions. Hopefully partners will make allowances for you.

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल

क्रमांक- विशा/स्टरो/2025-25 (101), दिनांक- 18/03/2025

निविदा सूचना का शब्द पर

(Corrigendum)

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना का उपलब्ध क्रमांक- विशा/स्टरो/2025-25 (03), Bhopal, Dated 01-01-2025 द्वारा Up Gradation of Data Center के क्रम हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है। उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा के पाठ्यम से क्रम किये जाने वाले उपकरण की समय-सारणी में "अशिक्ष संशोधन" के संबंध में "शुद्धि पर" (Corrigendum) जारी किया गया है जो website <https://mpetenders.gov.in/nicgapp> पर तथा विभाग की वेबसाइट www.mppolice.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

हस्तान-

साहायक पुलिस मननीशक,

विशेष शाखा (सा), मध्य.

G-24512-24

भोपाल दृश्य पर्क-0755-2443654

विहार सरकार

विहार राज्य भवन निर्माण लिंग पठना

(विहार सरकार का उपक्रम)

ई-निविदा/ई-पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं-79/2024-25

- विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता :
- निविदा आमंत्रण की तिथि :
- निविदा कागदों का उपलब्ध करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :
- निविदा जगा (अपलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :
- निविदा दिक्षित का स्थान :
- प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान :
- प्रो-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान :
- निविदा खोलों की तिथि एवं समय (टैक्सीकल बीड) :
- निविदा खोलों की तिथि एवं समय (पिरियोड बीड) :
- निविदा विद्युत की तिथि :
- कार्य का विवरण :

क्रमांक- विशा/स्टरो/2025-25 (101), दिनांक- 18/03/2025

निविदा सूचना का शब्द पर

(Corrigendum)

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना का उपलब्ध क्रमांक- विशा/स्टरो/2025-25 (03), Bhopal, Dated 01-01-2025 द्वारा Up Gradation of Data Center के क्रम हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है। उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा के पाठ्यम से क्रम किये जाने वाले उपकरण की समय-सारणी में "अशिक्ष संशोधन" के संबंध में "शुद्धि पर" (Corrigendum) जारी किया गया है जो website <https://mpetenders.gov.in/nicgapp> पर तथा विभाग की वेबसाइट www.mppolice.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

हस्तान-

साहायक पुलिस मननीशक,

विशेष शाखा (सा), मध्य.

G-24512-24

भोपाल दृश्य पर्क-0755-2443654

BIHAR STATE POWER TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED

Transmission Zone, Muzaffarpur, 132/33 KV Grid Campus, Bhikhanpura, Muzaffarpur-842001, Contact No. -7763817789, Email-tz.muzaffarpur@bsptcl.bihar.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No. 03/PR/TRZ/MUZ/BSP/2025

Sealed tenders are invited by the General Manager-cum-Chief Engineer, Transmission Zone, Muzaffarpur for the following works under Transmission Zone, Muzaffarpur :-

SL. No.	Description of work	Estimated cost	EMD	Cost of BOQ (including GST)	Completion Period
1	Leg Painting of towers from (i) location no. 01 to location no. 27 of 132kV Muzaffarpur- Motipur ckt-1 T/L (ii) location no. 28 to location no. 56 of 132kV MTPS- Motipur ckt-1 T/L upto LILo point (iii) location no. 01 to 34 of 132kV Muzaffarpur- Motipur ckt-2 T/L (iv) location no. 35 to 61 of 132kV MTPS- Motipur ckt-2 T/L upto LILo point (v) location no. 01 to 60 and LILo 01 to 03 of 132kV SKMCH- Muzaffarpur S/C T/L and (vi) 132kV MTPS- Samastipur D/C T/L including Turki TS under jurisdiction of TD Muzaffarpur	₹ 960465.00	₹ 19209.00	₹ 1476.00	45 days

Date of start of sale of tender papers From 10:00 AM of 26/03/2025

Bid submission start date and time From 10:00 AM of 26/03/2025

Bid submission end date and time Up to 05:00 PM of 16/04/2025

Date of opening of Techno Commercial Part After 11:00 AM of 17/04/2025

Date of opening of Price Part To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation

Eligibility Criteria, Tender Documents etc. can be taken from Accounts Section of Transmission Zone, Muzaffarpur.

(Premjeet Kumar)

PR. No. 022114 (B&C) 2024-25

General Manager cum Chief Engineer

This information is available on website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

संपूर्ण सुरक्षा केन्द्र में आएँ, निःशुल्क एच.आई.वी. व यौन जनित रोग जाँच एवं उपचार पाएँ।

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Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply and Delivery of 01 (One) complete set of Aluminium based re-usable Emergency Restoration System (ERS) (10 Tension Type + 06 Suspension Type) (Monopole Design) suitable for 132 kV and 220 kV Transmission Lines.	24.01 Cr	48,02,000	11,800	5,900	06 (Six) Months from NOA.

Start date of Online Sale of Bid Documents/ request of Bid/ Bid Documents

Date of Pre-bid meeting On 11:00 Hrs. of 09/04/2025

Last date of Online Submission of bid along with Tender Cost & processing fee Up to 16:00 Hrs. of 23/04/2025

Last date of submission of EMD and hard copy of receipt of BS/EDL processing fee & tender cost Up to 17:00 Hrs. of 23/04/2025

Sindhu loses again, search for form goes on



VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN
MARCH 19

THE ST. JAKOBSSHALLE in Basel is arguably PV Sindhu's favourite venue on the world tour, with her 2019 World Championships gold coming at this very arena. She had also reached the Swiss Open finals back-to-back in 2021 and 2022, winning the title three years back.

But, currently searching for some rhythm at the start of 2025, Sindhu suffered yet another first-round exit as world No 31 Julie Dawall Jakobsen edged past the Indian star 21-17, 21-19 in 39 minutes. It marked the end of a disappointing European leg for Sindhu, after losing in the round of 32 last week at the All England Open as well.

Entering the court with a heavily taped right thigh, Sindhu was slow off the blocks, with Jakobsen moving the Indian star around on the court. There was little to separate the two players in the early stages, with the Dane staying in touch till 13-13.

The Dane then sneaked ahead to the lead with a powerful smash to Sindhu's backhand side, followed by a round-the-head crosscourt drop – a shot that Kim Ga Eun used to great effect in Birmingham last week when she defeated the Indian. Down 14-16, Sindhu upped her intensity to inject more pace into the rallies but it wasn't enough to turn it around as the 25-year-old took the lead. Jakobsen started Game 2 with the same momentum and opened up a 9-4 lead.

Sindhu found some joy when she tried playing a couple of deceptive drops, closing the gap down to 9-11, but the pressure on Jakobsen wasn't sustained enough. The Dane opened up a 15-9 lead and from there it was just a case of simple game management. Sindhu was left visibly angry by a couple of line calls, one at 9-11 that went against her proving to be crucial.

The 29-year-old double Olympic medalist did stage a late fightback from 9-16 down to 18-17, then saved a match point too, but Jakobsen held her nerve while Sindhu threw the racket up in frustration after the defeat.

Earlier in the day, Srikanth Kidambi scripted a couple of solid comebacks within the match to defeat HS Prannoy 23-21 23-21 in a hard-fought battle. According to the official Head-to-Head statistics between them on the international circuit, this was the 10th meeting Srikanth and Prannoy, but they must have played each other hundreds of times over the years. The two leaders of India's historic Thomas Cup triumph in Bangkok have seen their form and results slip and slide in recent times, but at the Swiss Open destiny brought them together. Lakshya Sen's withdrawal from the event saw Srikanth receive a promotion, and the two veterans got together on the court on opposite sides of the net for the first time in 18 months. Even though Prannoy had a handy lead in both games – 20-16 in Game 1 and 18-14 in Game 2 – Srikanth managed to close it out without needing a decider.

C The million-dollar baby turns 18, leaving its immense footprint on the game and beyond. *The Indian Express* captures its vaulting growth as a standalone sporting spectacle, commercial colossus, super brand, cultural phenomenon and an Indian summer reality.

Summer of compulsive scrolling

Smart reels, lousy puns, BGMS in captain's mother tongue and movie characters: IPL franchises' fan engagement strategies

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, MARCH 19

TRYING TO woo returned astronaut Sunita Williams to become their team fan. Launching a charm offensive of Rishabh Pant so Lucknow stops pining after KL Rahul. The comedian Mr Nags accosting Yash Dayal, asking him if he's scared to bowl at the doomed Chinnaswamy. Struggling to find the third apt character to form the *Thala-Thalapathy* trinity with Ruturaj Gaikwad, and settling for a Hindi movie, in a first-ever for Chennai. A garba tutorial to cheer for 4s and 6s. Roping in local comedians as influencers. And a desperate attempt to get Hyderabad to love Travis Head's moustache, even as the 'stache gathers a hate-base from a Team India hangeron.

These, and other smart reel edits, lousy puns, welcome BGMS in captain's mother tongue and slow-mo action teaser clips that are sleeper hits and viral, are the different ways in which IPL teams are trying to engage fans as the IPL turns 18.

Here's how the 10 teams have planned their outreach.

Lucknow Super Giants

GOING DABANGG

A video of Lance Klusener guiding Ayush Badoni to hit 6 sixes off six balls in the nets, with a softly uttered, 'Now, six Sixes please' took off unexpectedly, as Zulu fans went nostalgic, and teared up a tad as he almost prayed 'Finish well. Finish well.' But most of LSG's efforts are geared on rebranding Rishabh Pant as their new captain, under the tag of RishabhPanti.

The social media admin has been facing some baseless attacks of replying to own posts, and the neo-Lucknow style seems to be polite rudeness as fans keep urging the owners to pad up, having lost KL Rahul who has built a residue fandom.

Bollywood's most famous UP character is reprised by Nicholas Pooran aka Robin Hood Pooran who mixes *Dabangg* with *Sholay's* Asranji jailer and gets self-deprecatory in a reel saying, "Singles this way, doubles that way, six hitter behind me", with none left behind, pointing to the team's concerns over lack of big hitters.

LSG have traded their in-house shaayar-influencers for riffing off Bollywood with Pooran mouthing, "Hum tumhe the chakke maarenge ki confuse ho jaage boundary pe fielders khade kare ya ball boys." But Project Pant has started out low-key with a huddle speech that was an unintended funny mix of LinkedIn meets Kennedy's 'ask not what your team management can do for you...'."

A wicked pre-tournament psy-op was telling David Miller to find redemption of Champions Trophy semi-loss, while batting for LSG. As if he needed telling.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru

GAGA OVER SALT-LI

RCB continues dealing in razzmatazz of Kohli-mania with the stage lit up for their an-

nual Unbox event, and bigger, bolder superlatives dropped into all their posts. In-house superstar comedian Mr Nags' best gag this season was asking Yash Dayal if he feared bowling at Chinnaswamy, notorious for being unhelpful to their bowlers. The Salt-Li combo is gaining traction - where Kohli and Phil Salt will be inseparable through the season, and the Unbox event saw the franchise lean on Sanjith Hegde, a Karnataka singing sensation who crooned into the full house night.

Guerilla-edit reels of Kohli in a CSK jersey keep popping up, to build intrigue. But RCB nailed the short video clip, set to soothing music of Bhuvaneswar Kumar bowling in slow-mo, a post that got immense numbers amidst the usual RCB din of promotion overdrive. RCB socials are also building a nice little mystery around navman and leg spinner Mohit Rathi.

Delhi Capitals

SPECIAL CAPTAINCY REVEAL

Captaincy reveal of Axar Patel was a long running social media thread this year. "Tu jaanta hai mera baap koun hai?" went the Delhi-coded trope, as the second actor responded, "Haan. Ratan Kisore C Block. But tu jaanta hai DC captain koun hai?" And so it went on for a few days, with routine kalesh moments weaved into the suspense before Patel was announced. The franchise would end up revealing faces of cricket influencers Mufa and Johns too, to set the rumours straight, in the process. Inspector Abhijeet of CID fame played a bit part in the sketch. Even coach Hemang Badani's brown book had a 'Reveal' clip of its own.

But a smart parallel engagement track is film shorts starring actor Rajesh Sharma, as a Delhi landlord Gulati obsessed with DC. Various cultural pointers like Sitaran Diwan Chand chhole bhature are woven into DC PG ka Gulati, with liberal use of Paalkala bazaar ka benn strokes. An entire series is in the making with two parts released on YouTube.

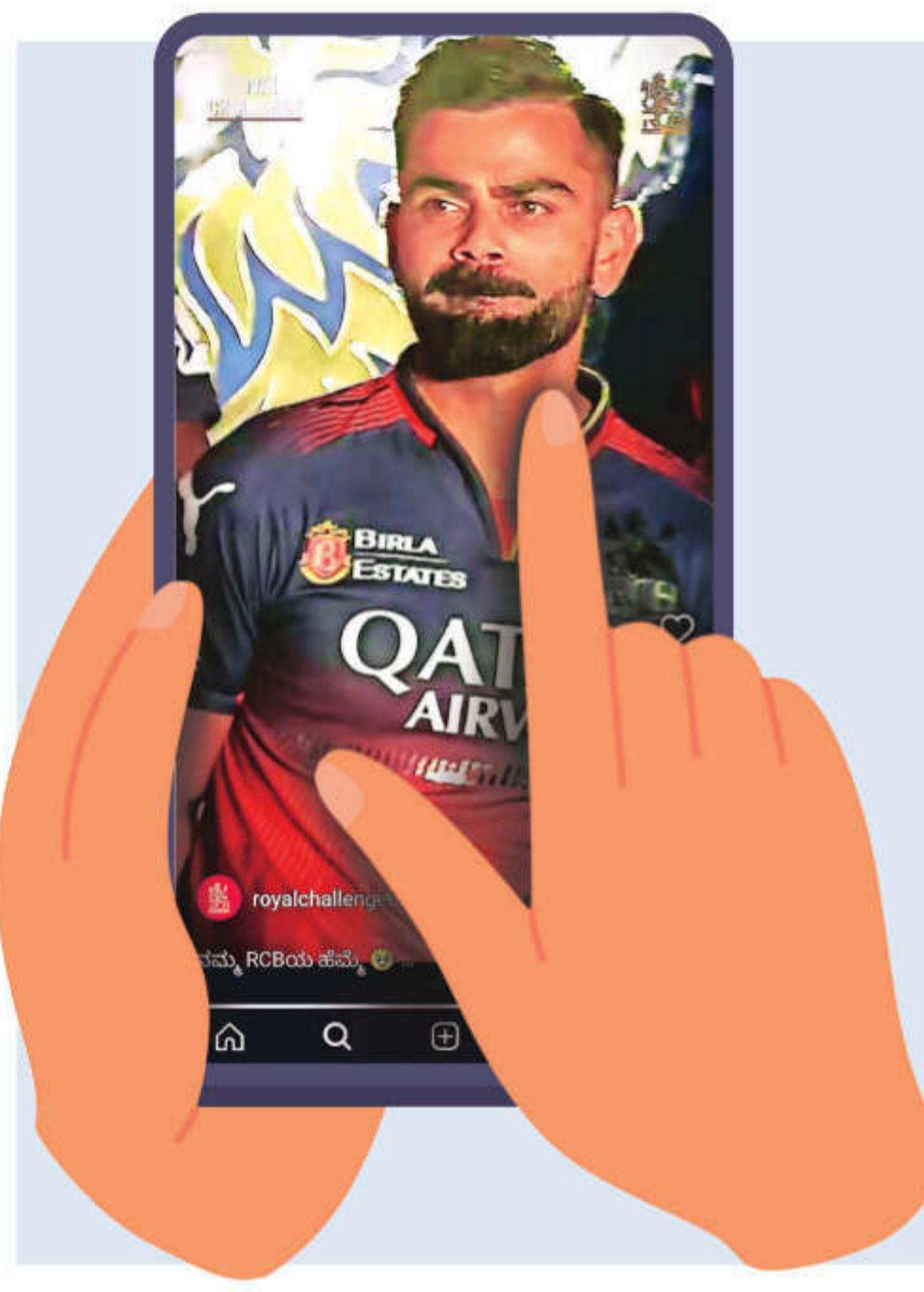
DC have multilingual content because of their owners, and given the team plays few home games at Vizag.

Chennai Super Kings

WHIPPING UP THAALA MANIA

In a foray into the unthinkable, the Thala (Dhoni), Thalapathy (Jadeja) Yellow trinity was completed when CSK assigned 'Chhava' to captain Ruturaj Gaikwad. It's rare for CSK to dabble at Bollywood references when they have a rich mine of movie blokes of their own. Shivam Dube was dubbed *Aaru (6) Saamy* (famous character from *Vikram* movie) last, but Gaikwad has ended up with a slightly stereotypical Chhava call sign.

The most viral clip though - a 7-second tease of MS Dhoni's short arm helicopter shot in take off. Anything Thala is a thirst tap at Anbuden. CSK have gone easy on Tamil references, and stuck to some great training action edits with Mukesh Star! Chaudhry in slow-mo. The franchise has upped it's merchandise game with casual Superfan tees in white, grey & yellow. But expect Chepauk to hoist



plenty of miniature cardboard jerseys of players that are picking in popularity.

Gujarat Titans

TURNING COSMO

It's not just CSK toning down on the local lingo. Gujarat Titans too are attempting to appear more cosmopolitan, with a lot of content in Hindi. The skipper Shubman Gill was even welcomed from the airport with Nagadas and bhangra, as fans are urged to mimic his century celebration bowing pose. However, you can't keep them away from the dance, and garba tutorials for cheering 6s and 4s from the stands are pushed daily through socials.

Perhaps the one local meme is of Glenn Philips diving around saying 'Catch aava de'.

The franchise has released several posts featuring Mohammad Siraj as 'Miyan magic', and Sali Kishore with his afro hairdo at Holi has gained fans in thousands with Gujarati haikus about his hair. GT has introduced a game called 'Hand Cricket' like stone-paper-scissors + book cricket, and their player interviews are packed as 'Boomer bole toh' pitting Gen Z vs millennials, and Car-versations. Perhaps the best experiment is mic'd up training sessions of

players where they describe their shot or action.

Mumbai Indians

CHILLING IN BHIDU-MODE

MI have gone full *Bhidu*-mode, getting in popular Bambaiya speaking actors Jackie Shroff and Upendra Limaye for their campaigns. SKY is now Surya Dada, and foreign players were introduced to *Tikki* shot - a typical Mumbai welcome like a carrom flick on forehead that hurts but jolts anyone into the now and present. Rap artists Shrushti Tawde, Sambata, Kaam bhari have speed-talked the new street-lingo anthem. And Mitchell Santner seems to be lined up for a running gag with the in-house comedian, each time he wants coffee this whole season.

Kolkata Knight Riders

TURNING ECO-FRIENDLY

The defending champions have been rather silent on their social media, though they introduced an animated detective character (don't ask Byomkesh or Feluda), who will decipher the Varun Chakravarthy mystery as the

RADUCANU WINS MIAMI OPENER

Miami: Former U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu barely broke a sweat as she brushed aside Japanese wild card Sayaka Ishii 6-2 6-1 on Wednesday to reach the second round of the Miami Open.

REUTERS

CAPTAINS SPEAK

'Hardik 3.0 will be passionate and gritty'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, MARCH 19

A HINT OF a smile appeared in Hardik Pandya's face when Rohit Sharma said 'hat's off to Hardik for bowling that last over'. The expression would turn beatific when the crowd began to chant "Hardik Hardik!", and as a thunderous swell of applause rang around the Wankhede stadium during the T20 world cup triumph celebration ceremony, he sprang up on his feet, raising his arms to soak it all up.

A more cathartic 'villain to hero' moment in sport would be tough to find as few homecomings had been as unwelcoming as faced by Hardik Pandya at Mumbai Indians last season. A reunion that was supposed to act as a catalyst for success got off on the wrong foot with Pandya at the receiving end of constant jeers at the Wankhede Stadium as the five-time champions had a season to forget by finishing at the bottom. With the new season just days away, Pandya knows all of it is totally behind him, as he sets his sight on bringing home a record sixth title.

"My life has been quite up and down. But I think that has been the learning which I have really enjoyed. It has just not taught me about the sport, it has taught me about life as well, and how life would be over the years. This year, it's a fresh year. A lot of things have changed, a lot of love and joy, and a lot of things are added. Hardik 3.0 will be passionate, gritty. Crucial part would be how I can help my boys to fight the challenges, how to add more value to the players and team," Pandya said on Wednesday.

Pandya's transfer from Gujarat Titans and given the captaincy ahead of Suryakumar



Hardik Pandya reflected on his learnings from last year's IPL. Sankhadeep Banerjee

Yadav and Jasprit Bumrah seemed to cause a lot of turbulence in the franchise that has always looked settled. Post that IPL, the national selectors seemingly weren't as convinced as the franchise, instead bestowing Surya the leadership role for India's T20 team. Since then, though, Pandya has appeared a totally different player and in the recent Champions Trophy, showed how he is still the MVP for India in white-ball formats.

"I'm lucky that I have three captains who are playing with me. It adds more and more experience. If I require help, I know that there are three different minds who have led India for different formats. They can always put an arm around my shoulder and they will always be there," Pandya said.

In a batting line-up that is already oozing

class, unlike previous editions where they had an overseas player to don the finisher's role, Mumbai Indians don't have anyone specific for that role. With the likes of Robin Minz, Naman Dhir lacking experience, Pandya could be entrusted with role which he has embraced in India colours. And Pandya said he hasn't nailed down a spot to bat.

"The batting order is something I've never really taken much into my cricket, I've always been someone who liked to play situations. Specific numbers like batting at 4, 5, 6, it has gone from my cricketing journey. I only focus on what is required for my team. If my team requires me to bat at 4, very good, if 7, very good, any number basically, I'm fine with it, it's just which situation that I go into is more important for me," Pandya said.

There is still an uncertainty around MI's premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah's availability. Mumbai will also be without Pandya for their opening match against Chennai Super Kings at the MA Chidambaram Stadium as he has to serve one-match suspension for maintaining poor over-rate last season. Head coach Mahela Jayawardene, who has returned to the hot seat replacing Mark Boucher, said the situation provides an opportunity to test other combinations.

"Jasprit is with NCA, just started the process there. Will await their feedback on him. Progress will be monitored on day to day basis. Not having him is a challenge, but we can experiment. For me, it's tough still to define exactly which route we are going to take, I've been very honest, especially with Booms not being in that starting level and then Hardik missing out the first game, so I have a few ideas around my head," Jayawardene said.

Ever since the Impact Player rule came about, Mumbai Indians have been able to take the field with as many as 8 local players thanks to a strong Indian core. Jayawardene said he is still undecided on that front. "I've had chats with HP (Hardik), the co-group as well, and with Ro (Rohit). Once I get to Chennai, I'll have a good look at the weekend and then see what our best combination would be with the three overseas, four overseas."

"That's the beauty about IPL; every game, every team throws us different challenges and us having a really experienced team with different skill set of individuals helps us to manoeuvre those challenges very well. I'm pretty sure we'll, sooner rather than later, will settle into a consistent combination." Undoubtedly, Hardik will remain the star of that team.

Gill evades question about becoming India captain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AHMEDABAD, MARCH 19

"WE HAVE played the most consistent cricket and the wins speak for themselves. I don't think we need to change anything and we will continue playing the way we have been doing over the last 3 years," said a confident **Shubman Gill**, Captain of the Gujarat Titans IPL, just a week before their first match against Kings XI Punjab.

"If you look at our record for the last 3 years we have had the highest percentage of wins. If we can continue with that it is going to be another great season for us," he added.

However, on a question regarding the low run rate of the team during powerplays in the 2024 edition of IPL, and the plan for this year, Gill said, "The plan is always to make maximum runs during the powerplay. Our performance wasn't good last year whether in powerplay or after that. We couldn't play that well and we couldn't win as many games as we hoped to. As a batsman my responsibility is to help the team score during powerplay. We will try to better the things we couldn't last year."

The online chatter has been around the role of out-of-form Jos Buttler, England's captain. Gill explained the rationale: "Jos Buttler has been taken as a wicketkeeper... We will get a better idea of the battling line up once the matches start. I think each batsman gets a role that helps the entire team flourish."

Gill evaded a question on the possibility of his taking the reins of the Indian cricket



team. When asked about his experiences playing under Kohli and Sharma and how he sees himself at a junction when India is on the threshold of a change of guard in the Indian team before the 2027 World Cup, Gill said, "I've had more experience captaining Gujarat Titans than I have the Indian cricket team and the experience that I have got from Ashish Paaaji and Vikram (Solanki) Paaaji is immensely treasurable for me. I've played under various captains with different qualities and that is what you tend to take forward and that is what I'm trying to do."

Gujarat Titans won the tournament in their first edition and finished as runners-up in their second outing. Colonel Arvinder Singh, the COO of the team said, "You have no kind of idea of the kind of hard work these people have put in, on and off the field, to ensure that right from season 1 when many of the so-called pundits said that it was a fluke (in the context of Titans winning their first IPL title in the year they were formed). They started taking GT seriously only in the second season."

CLASSIFICATION CAULDRON

Tying up arm, sitting on ice: How para athletes cheat

Disability misrepresentation is a worldwide phenomenon, the most famous case being of the intellectually disabled Spanish basketball team at the 2000 Paralympics that had 10 out of 12 players bending the rules

Pritish Raj
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

MONTHS BEFORE a para classification competition, the purpose of which is to determine the level of disability and club athletes with similar impairments together, an Indian athlete folded his arm towards his shoulder and tied it using a plastic cord. It remained in that position for a few weeks. At the classification this para athlete's hand looked lifeless and weak. Just one example of disability misrepresentation or what is known as classification doping by an Indian para athlete in order to gain an unfair advantage during competition. This athlete was weeded out before he could represent India.

Yet others have slipped through only to be caught by World Para Athletics classifiers, officials who decide which class an athlete is eligible for.

Vinod Kumar, the bronze medallist in the discus throw in a wheelchair category (F52) at the Tokyo Paralympics was suspended for two years for intentionally misrepresenting his abilities'.

However, disability misrepresentation is a worldwide phenomenon, the most famous case being of the intellectually disabled Spanish basketball team at the 2000 Sydney Paralympics. Because of the whistleblower journalist, it came to light that 10 of the 12 team members were faking. Heads rolled at the Spanish federation.

The rise in cash prizes for Paralympic medal winners; Rs 75 lakh from the Indian central government and Rs 6 crore from some state governments, has enticed unscrupulous athletes, many of whom are not good enough to compete against able-bodied athletes, to take extreme steps like part amputation that doesn't affect their performance drastically.

Able-bodied athletes too have resorted to extreme measures to attain a classification.

A national-level para athletics coach told The Indian Express that he had warned abled-bodied athletes trying to switch to para sports against consequences and that he would not hesitate in reporting them to classifiers. The most number of phone calls have been from javelin throwers, the coach said.

"In the able-bodied events, the standard of competition is very high in India. Even if you hit 80 metres, you might not finish in the top five. The rising competition has resulted in athletes resorting to the ways of becoming a para athlete. There are many able-bodied athletes who have reached out to me saying that I want to get into para Athletics. Cash awards are a big deal for them as a lot of them come

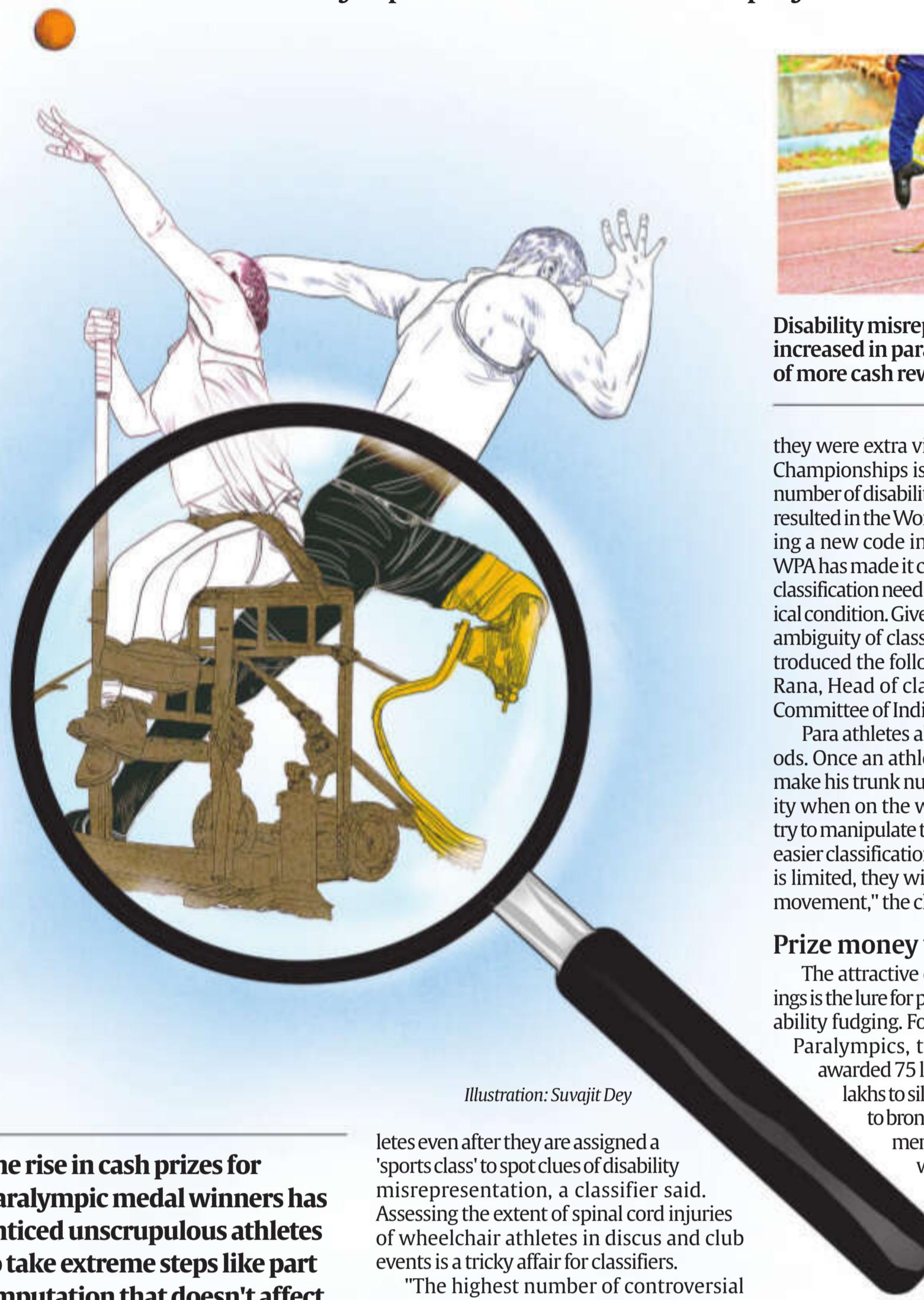


Illustration: Suvajit Dey

The rise in cash prizes for Paralympic medal winners has enticed unscrupulous athletes to take extreme steps like part amputation that doesn't affect their performance drastically.

from underprivileged backgrounds and of course the recognition of winning a medal for the country," the coach elaborated.

The job of a classifier is not easy. But the smarter ones continue to keep an eye on ath-

letes even after they are assigned a 'sports class' to spot clues of disability misrepresentation, a classifier said. Assessing the extent of spinal cord injuries of wheelchair athletes in discus and club events is a tricky affair for classifiers.

The highest number of controversial cases are in wheelchair events. It is one of the most complex categories and it is not easy to judge with the naked eye.

"Athletes present forged medical certificates usually. Few of them are caught during observation assessment but a few escape also," a classifier said.

At the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in New Delhi earlier this month, classifiers said



Disability misrepresentation has increased in para Athletics after influx of more cash rewards and jobs.

they were extra vigilant because the World Championships is later this year. The rising number of disability misrepresentation cases resulted in the World Para Athletics introducing a new code in 2024. "The new code by WPA has made it clear that athletes vying for classification need to have a permanent medical condition. Given how the athletes use the ambiguity of classification, the WPA has introduced the following measures," Manish Rana, Head of classifications, Paralympic Committee of India said.

Para athletes also use other illegal methods. Once an athlete sat on ice for hours to make his trunk numb and reduce his mobility when on the wheelchair. "Para-athletes try to manipulate their disabilities so they get easier classifications. If their limb movement is limited, they will try to show almost zero movement," the classifier added.

Prize money windfall

The attractive cash prizes and job openings is the lure for para athletes to attempt disability fudging. For example, after the Paris Paralympics, the Central Government awarded 75 lakhs to gold medallists, 50 lakhs to silver medallists and 30 lakhs to bronze medallists. State governments give handsome rewards, with Uttar Pradesh and Haryana governments topping the list with Rs 6 crore for a gold medal, Rs 4 crore for silver medal.

"Other than the prize money, medal winners at major events can also get jobs," a PCI official said. In a manipulation attempt in Uzbekistan, Dilshodbek Jabborov tried for international classification after being barred once before by changing his name. However, he was caught by WPA and banned for the next four years from competing.

Lovlina to miss nationals as infighting plagues federation, hurts boxers

Pritish Raj
MARCH 19

TOKYO OLYMPIC medallist Lovlina Borgohain will miss the upcoming Boxing Nationals due to infighting in the Boxing Federation of India President Ajay Singh and secretary Hemanta Kalita.

One of the country's leading boxer, Lovlina represents Assam at the National level and is yet to participate in any competition since the start of the year.

"I won't be participating in the upcoming Nationals as Assam is not sending any team. If Assam is not sending any team, I can't go on my own as an individual boxer," Lovlina told *The Indian Express* over a phone call from Guwahati.

Earlier in the morning, Boxing Federation of India (BFI) President Ajay Singh alleged in a press conference that now suspended BFI secretary Hemanta Kalita is not allowing Assam boxers to participate in the nationals. The tournament will take place from March 21-27 at the Gautam Buddha University in Greater Noida.

"Assam Boxing state unit and some other state units are not allowing boxers to participate in the nationals.

"Lovlina recorded a video to support the event but she is not coming now due to Assam not sending a team," Ajay Singh told the reporters.

Urge for player's welfare

The experienced Indian boxer has asked to keep the politics out of the window, so the interest of the boxers are safeguarded. "Whatever is the resolution of this situation, it should be in favour of the players," Lovlina said.

"Right now the situation is messy given the confusion over the elections. If something happens at the elections and then another nationals is conducted, I don't think that will be good for any boxer," she added further.

BFI President Ajay Singh also announced that the federation will take care of the expenses of boxers who want to participate despite their state units not sending a team. However, Lovlina quashed any such possibility.

"It is not possible for me to come Nationals as our state unit is not sending any participants," she said.

Apart from Assam, state associations like Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and West Bengal are not sending their boxers. With World Champion Nikhat Zareen also not participating, Lovlina missing will be a big blow for the tournament.

BFI claimed that 22 states are coming to nationals with many of them on their way to Greater Noida.

"We have confirmation from 22 states. Boxers from Kerala and Andhra Pradesh are on their way to Noida while the North Eastern states will fly here soon," said BFI



Lovlina Borgohain. File

Whatever is the resolution of this situation, it should be in favour of the players. Right now the situation is messy given the confusion over the elections. If something happens at the elections and then another nationals is conducted, I don't think that will be good for any boxer."

-LOVLINA BORGOHAIN

president Singh.

Politics, chaos takes center stage

BFI has been embroiled in controversy since the start of the month with first Indian Olympic Association suspending the federation due to election issues.

After Delhi High Court reversed the decision, Kalita issued a notice last week saying that 18 state associations have asked for the postponement of the tournament. "I would like to reiterate that the said Championship is being rescheduled due to the request of various members and also considering the paucity of time."

"A few states have only sent entry by number and some have sent names," Kalita wrote in the letter.

Later, BFI president Singh issued another mail announcing that the championship was on.

In the latest controversy, BFI suspended Secretary General Kalita and treasurer Digvijay Singh from their official positions due to financial irregularities and mismanagement of the funds.

"SAI received a complaint in January regarding funds embezzlement and asked BFI to conduct an independent inquiry on Mr Kalita and Mr Singh," Ajay Singh said.

"We conducted an independent inquiry with Retired Judge Sudhir Jain hearing all three parties (complainant, SAI and accused). While the other two parties appeared and recorded their statements, the accused failed to turn up despite multiple reminders."

"His investigation found our office bearers guilty and we suspended them as per the rules and submitted the report to SAI," he concluded.

Chhetri scores on his comeback as India win

SHASHANK NAIR
MARCH 19

IT WAS a muted celebration, a hallmark of a player who has scored more goals for the Indian National team than any other. That Sunil Chhetri had turned back on a retirement, celebrated with aplomb in Kolkata, only to return back to an Indian team that went winless for an entire year and then immediately won on his return, seamlessly papered over the canyon-like cracks within the Indian football ecosystem on Wednesday.

Three headed goals, two from corners and one godsend of an open play goal lifted India to a 3-0 victory over the Maldives in Shillong's first-ever hosting of an international home game, albeit a friendly.

This game was a warm-up for India before facing off against Bangladesh in the AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifiers. For Manolo Marquez, who at one point last year saw through ninety abject minutes of Indian football before declaring that it possibly couldn't get worse, a first win beckoned. The Spaniard chose a second-string side, opting to start Chhetri and Brandon Fernandes.

For starters, this was a Maldives team ranked 162nd in the world and composed of players who have yet to see a league game played in their conglomerate of atolls in the last two years. To beat them was expected but such has been the results that this Indian team had in 2024 that even that wasn't a given.

For a large part of the first half, it was that very same team that showed up. Listlessly moving the ball down the flanks and once

there, a cross aimed at no one would arrive and inevitably find a Maldives defender. To repeat that pattern continuously despite getting zero dividends has been the hallmark of this team and the first half was no different.

India took the lead in the 35th minute. The goal arrived from a corner and central defender Rahul Bheke rifled in his second goal from a corner in the Manolo era. Minutes later Brandon Fernandes, arguably the most impactful player for India, was stretchered off the turf. The midfielder will be a huge miss for India against Bangladesh should he not be available.

As the game wore on, India, which had players fit from the Indian Super League season, displayed their higher fitness levels. Pressure kept getting piled on the Maldives defence and another goal from a corner came soon after.

The second goal came in the 66th minute from the head of Liston Colaco. The India No 7, rose highest in the far post to direct a header towards goal and earn his first national team strike.

The night couldn't have been complete without Chhetri making a mark. The previous occasion that India faced Maldives had seen the 40-year-old score a brace. In Shillong, he met Colaco's weighted cross and parried the ball for his first goal in his second debut.

While the result may favour India, the game against Bangladesh on March 25th would paint a clearer picture of where Manolo's ways and means are taking this team. A result against them is crucial for India to take the necessary steps to make the 2027 Asian Cup.

Where newsmakers drop in for a candid chat.

Express Appa

Presents

BILL GATES

in conversation with

Anant Goenka

Executive Director, The Indian Express Group

SENSEX: 75,449.05 ▲ 147.79 (0.20%) NIFTY: 22,907.60 ▲ 73.30 (0.32%) NIKKEI: 37,751.88 ▼ 93.54 HANG SENG: 24,771.14 ▲ 30.57 FTSE: 8,690.35 ▼ 14.88 DAX: 23,202.20 ▲ 178.50

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of March 18



GOLD

₹91,950



USD RATE

₹86.37



OIL

\$72.77



SILVER

₹1,03,500

International market data till 1900 IST

MSMEs CALL FOR PROTECTION AGAINST STEEL PRICE HIKE

CommerceMin arm pushes for 12% duty on steel imports citing 'trade diversion'

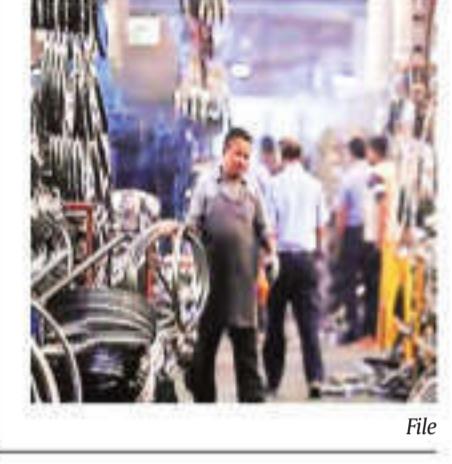
RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

AMID FEARS of a surge in steel imports into India – driven by trade diversion following US President Donald Trump's sweeping 25 per cent tariffs and the European Union's protectionist measures on steel – the anti-dumping watchdog under the Commerce and Industry Ministry has proposed a 12 per cent duty on certain imported steel products.

The recommendation to the Finance Ministry comes amid a tussle between steel producers and downstream industries. While steel manufacturers have been pushing for protection against cheaper imports, MSME manufacturers warn that the duty could drive up prices.

The anti-dumping body, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), which falls under the Commerce Ministry, reasoned that as many as 129 trade remedy measures have been adopted by EU, Canada, the UK and others against steel

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF TRADE REMEDIES' PROPOSAL



THE DGTR's recommendation to the Finance Ministry comes amid a tussle between steel producers and downstream industries. While steel makers have been pushing for protection against cheaper imports, MSMEs warn that the duty could drive up prices

products, leaving India vulnerable to injury.

However, former trade officer and head of think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), Ajay Srivastava, said that the safeguard measure could encourage monopolistic practices, as sole domestic suppliers may restrict consumer choices and inflate prices.

Trump's tariffs a trigger

"The authority also notes that on February 10, 2025, the US announced that it would apply a 25 per cent additional duty on steel products with effect from March 12, 2025, uniformly on all imports

into the US from all sources, by revoking relaxations and exemptions granted, if any, to various countries. The domestic industry has claimed that, as a result of these measures, more imports are expected to be diverted from those countries, making India more vulnerable to increased imports," DGTR said in its report dated Tuesday.

The DGTR said that large steel-producing economies such as Japan, South Korea and China have steel-producing capacities that far exceed their domestic consumption. It warned that, due to this excess capacity, steel producers in these economies may

turn to export markets, which could pose a serious threat to the domestic industry.

'To encourage monopolistic practices'

On preliminary findings in a 'safeguard investigation' by DGTR concerning imports of "non-alloy and alloy steel flat products", Srivastava said that despite claims of industry distress, domestic steel production grew by 19 per cent between FY 2021-2024, with capacity utilisation rates between 83 and 90 per cent. He added that an estimated 10 per cent increase in steel demand in 2025 contradicts claims that the industry is in distress and requires protectionist measures. "The proposed safeguard duty would raise steel prices, adversely affecting downstream industries such as automotive, infrastructure, and renewable energy. Specialised steel requirements remain unmet domestically due to technological and quality limitations, making imports essential," he said.

"Petitioners such as ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India are major importers of the same products they claim are harming the domestic market, undermining

'Protect MSMEs too'

Responding to the 12 per cent duty recommendation, Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC India) Chairman, Pankaj Chahda, stressed that there is a need for additional measures to protect MSMEs and user industries from potential price hikes and supply disruptions. "There should be a provision for MSME units to procure steel at export parity prices to ensure their global competitiveness. Like the EU model, country-specific quotas should also be considered to avoid overdependence on any single source," Chahda said.

Highlighting concerns over domestic price escalation, Chahda said that using the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) price as a benchmark to maintain price stability could help prevent steep hikes, ensuring an affordable raw material supply for engineering and manufacturing sectors.

BRIEFLY

'India AI, Gates Foundation to sign MoU soon'

New Delhi:

India AI mission and Gates Foundation will soon sign a memorandum of understanding for developing AI solutions for better crops, stronger healthcare, smarter education & climate resilience, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday. On Tuesday, the minister had shared that India AI Mission has signed an agreement with Parliament to leverage the latter's data for the development of an indigenous AI technology. PTI

'India, Mercosur can explore signing pacts'

New Delhi:

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday proposed that India and the four-nation bloc Mercosur can explore signing bilateral free-trade agreements. His statement assumes significance as the efforts to expand the scope of the Preferential Trade Agreement between India and the Mercosur trade bloc, including Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, have not made headway. PTI

Google charged with breaching EU rules

Brussels:

Google was hit with two charges of breaching EU rules by European Commission while Apple was asked to help rivals connect with iPhones, iPads. REUTERS

BY 2028-END

Air India, Air New Zealand want to launch direct flights

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

NEW DELHI, MARCH 19

INDIA AND New Zealand could see direct air connectivity within the next three years as Air India and Air New Zealand will explore the introduction of a direct service by the end of 2028 as part of an agreement between the two airlines to boost connectivity between the two countries. Air India and Air New Zealand have inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a new code-share partnership along with exploring direct flights between India and New Zealand.

Currently there is no direct flight service between the two countries and flyers have to transit via airports in Southeast Asia

**कार्यालय वन मण्डल अधिकारी,
वन विभाग हरियाणा, गुरुग्राम।**

वन संविदाकारी के पंजीकरण हेतु विज्ञापन

वन विभाग, हरियाणा की गुरुग्राम वन मण्डल में विभिन्न वानिकों एवं अन्य कार्य करवाने हेतु पंजीकरण आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। आवेदन पत्र वन मण्डल अधिकारी, गुरुग्राम के कार्यालय से प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं। यह पंजीकरण 31.03.2024 तक मान्य होगा। नया पंजीकरण विभाग से निर्धारित शुल्क देकर करवाया जा सकता है।

पंजीकरण/नवीकरण से सम्बन्धित पंजीकरण हेतु आवेदन पत्र कार्यालय वन मण्डल अधिकारी, सोहन रोड, नजदीक न्यायालय परिसर, गुरुग्राम में दिनांक 28.03.2025 को साथ 3 बजे तक प्राप्त हो जाने चाहिए।

हस्ता/-
No. 33025/HRY

उप वन संरक्षक गुरुग्राम।

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 BNNS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Sauraj S/o Sh. Ram Parshad R/o H. No. 102/08, Mukhtiar Singh Marg, Village Bawana, Delhi & Permanent Address Village Jalilpur, PS Jahangirabad, Distt. Bulandshahr, UP have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide FIR No. 99/18, U/S 33(1) Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Bawana, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Sauraj, can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Sauraj, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sauraj, of FIR No. 99/18, U/S 33(1) Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Bawana, Delhi is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of 27.05.2025.

By Order,
Sh. Sarthak Panwar
Judicial Magistrate First Class-05 (North)
Court Room No. 114, 1st Floor
Rohini Court, Delhi
DP/3391/ON/2025 (Court Matter)



RAIL WHEEL FACTORY

YELAHANKA, BENGALURU - 560 064.

Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO.RWF/S/P1/0013/2024-25 dt.17.03.25

On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager invites electronic Tenders from Interested Vendors for supply of the following items on the Indian Railways E-Portal-www.reps.gov.in. The Tender documents and the Corrigenda to the Tenders, if any, will be available on the Portal only.

Sl	Tender No	Due date	Short Description	Qty
1	P125119	01-04-2025	Modular Drill body dia 25.1 mm	65 Sets.
2	P1251101	14-04-2025	Steel Sheet as per RWF Specification	390 MT
3	P1251626	18-04-2025	Graphite Mould Blanks 43.2" X 22.6" as per RWF Specification (Developmental Tender)	24 Nos.
4	P1251546	25-04-2025	Steel Blooms 300 mm Square R16 as per RWF Specification (Developmental Tender)	400 MT
5	P1251547	25-04-2025	Steel Blooms 340 mm Square R43 as per RWF Specification (Developmental Tender)	200 MT

Principal Chief Materials Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARES OF HINDUSTAN UNILEVER LIMITED

Regd. Off. Hindustan Unilever Limited, Unilever House, B D Savant Marg, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400099.

Notice is hereby given that following share certificates have been reported as lost/misplaced by the concerned shareholders. The duplicate certificate in lieu thereof, in due course, Any person who has a valid claim on the Company at its Registered Office, within 15 days hereof, shall lodge such claim with the Company at its Registered Office, within 15 days hereof.

Name of Holder: Geeta Pant, Ajit Pant, Folio no HL0750601. No of shares: 1500, Certificate nos: 5032809.

Distinctive nos: 29487131-29488630.

Place New Delhi, Date 20.3.2025.

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for damage or loss incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising its products or publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

S.E. RAILWAY - TENDER

e-Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), S.E. Railway, Chakradharpur & on behalf of the President of India against open tender for the following works.

Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Sl. No. & Tender Notice No.; Name of work; Tender value; EMD:

(1) CKP-CENTRAL-24-25-057, dated

18.03.2025; Patashai: Construction of additional full length loading line and extension of shunting neck at both end of yard; ₹ 9,17,65,315.81; ₹ 6,08,800/-.

(2) CKP-CENTRAL-24-25-58, dated

18.03.2025; Rangra: Construction of additional full length loading line and extension of shunting neck at both end of yard; ₹ 11,32,88,018.08; ₹ 7,16,500/-.

(3) CKP-CENTRAL-24-25-59, dated

18.03.2025; Execution of supply of 6000 AT welding portion for fusion welding of rail joints by use of compressed air pistol/LPG along with three-piece mould by automatic tapping thimbles only for various rail section for maintenance of LWR track under jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer/Central/Chakradharpur; ₹ 1,48,87,971.40;

₹ 2,24,400/- Cost of Tender Form: 0.00 for each. Date of Opening: 11.04.2025 for Sl. No. 1 & 3 and 15.04.2025 for Sl. No. 2. The tender can be viewed at Web site <http://www.reps.gov.in>. The tender/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on REPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

Note: e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenders. (Authority-Railway Board's letter No. 2020/CE/I/CT/3/GCC/Policy dttd.16.07.2020) (PR-1247)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

इति-विद्या सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल नियंत्रण (नगरीय) की ओर से आजोहतरारी द्वारा पंजीकरण अलंकार योजनात्मक तर्ज प्राप्त विभागीय इकाई के लिए खरीद की जाती है। उत्तर प्रदेश योजनात्मक सेक्टर के सामने वाली गली में, कॉठ रोड, मुरादाबाद-244001 E-mail: pm18mbd@gmail.com

पत्राक: 661/एम-18/146

दिनांक: 17.03.2025

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इति-विद्या सूचना

<p

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Bhawna Sachdeva W/o Sh. Amit Kumar R/o I-706, Sethi Max Royal, Sec-76, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201301, have changed my name from BHAWNA SACHDEVA Allies MANNAT to BHAWNA SACHDEVA for all future purposes.

0070957382-1

I, Arvind Kumar S/o Late Bhagwan S/o Arvind Jain, hereby declare that as per my Aadhaar card, my name is Arvind Kumar. However, in several other documents, my name has been previously mentioned as Arvind Jain or Arvind Kumar Jain. I affirm that Arvind Kumar, Arvind Kumar Jain and Arvind Jain all refer to the same individual, i.e., myself. This notice is issued to clarify any discrepancies in the use of my name across different records.

0040780260-1

I, Amarjeet S/o Kabilas Kumar R/o D-85, Sanjay Colony, Okhla Ph-2, Delhi-20 have changed my name to Amarjeet Kumar

0070957383-1

I, Tafseer Fatma W/o Rishi Pal R/o U-210184, 14th Avenue, Gaur City 2, Gautam Budh Nagar-201009 have changed my name to Tafseer Fatma Pal for all purposes

0070957392-1

I, Sumit S/o Shri Ram Kishan R/o House No.12/1, Wazirabad Village, Jagat Pur Ilqa, North Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Sumit Pal for all purposes.

0040780251-1

I, Rakesh Kumar S/o, Nanak Chand R/o H.no.2357, Ghokha, Gazabid, Uttar Pradesh -201001 have changed my name to Abhiraj Dev.

0040780358-1

I, Pradeep Kumar B Jain Alias Paradeep Kumar B Jain Alias Paradeepkumar B Jain S/o Babul R/o 8-15-6/A, Vankayala Vani Street, Veeresalingam House Sandhu, Main Road, Rajahmundry (Urban), Dist-East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh-533101, have changed my name to Pradeep Kumar

0070957363-1

I, Mohd Khalid S/o Mohammed Zaker R/o 18-2-36/2, Gazimilath Colony, Govt High School, Chandrayangutta, Bandlaguda, District-Hyderabad, Telangana-500005, have changed my name to Mohammed Yousf

0070957324-1

I, Mohan Garg,S/o-Prem Chand R/o E-15-19/20, First Floor, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Mohan Lal for all purposes

0040780327-1

I, Kapil Singh S/o Shoran Singh R/o Flat No-1705 Tower-9 Purvanchal Royal Park Felix Hospital Sector-137 Noida Uttar Pradesh. Have Change My Name To Kapil For All Future Purposes.

0070957388-1

I, KAMALA W/O RAJPAL R/o.16, Bus Stand, Chandpur Dabas, North West Delhi, Delhi-110081, have changed my name to KAMLA for all future purposes.

0040780337-1

I, Jitender Yadav S/o, Sute Singh Yadav R/o 3929, Gali Mandir Wali Pahari Dhiraj, Sadar Bazar, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Jitender Singh Yadav.

0040780323-1

I, JITENDER KUMAR SINGHAL S/o SHRI OM PRAKASH SINGHAL R/o H.NO. 2-A 187/1, NEHRU NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH 201001, WANT TO INFORM THAT JITENDER KUMAR SINGHAL AND JITENDER SINGHAL BOTH ARE ONE AND SAME PERSON.

0040780288-1

I, LALIT KUMAR GOYALS/o-OM PRAKASH AGGARWAL,R/o C7/5A,2ND FLOOR,MODEL TOWN-III,Dr.Mukherjee-Nagar Delhi-110009,Inform that my father,OM PRAKASH AGGARWAL and OM PAKASH both names are the same person

0040780366-8

I, Annu Mittal D/o Bhawani Shankar Mittal R/H.O. E-194 UGF-R, Vishwas Park, Uttam Nagar, D K Mohan Garden, Delhi-110059, inform that in my 10th & 12th class mark-sheet record my father's name was mentioned as Bhawani Shankar, Bhawani Shankar Mittal and Bhawani Shankar both are one & the same Person.

0040780271-6

I, VANSH S/O TILAK RAJ,R/o A-88,Sector-11,Vijay Nagar, Bichal Gate,Ghaziabad(UP)-201009,have changed my name to VANSHE RAJ.

0040780272-2

I, Kiran W/O Kishore Kumar Pant,R/O-Jawahar jyoti Jamrani Damuvadunga Haldwani nainital-263139,have changed my name to Kiran pant,for all,future purposes.

0040780263-2

I,hitherto known as MANOJ MOHAN PILLAI,Son of,Shri MOHANAN PILLAI,residing at 270/5,266),KAMALASREE, MANAPPALLY NORTH, MANAPPALLY,PO-KOLLAM, KARUNAGAPALLY,KERALA-69571,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANOJM.

0040780272-5

I, darpan singh,S/o rajinder singh Address-318 first floor kohat enclave pitampura new delhi -110034,changed my name to darpan singh bawaja.

0040780271-2

I,YAMINI W/O LALIT KUMAR DHAWAN R/O HO-NO-2020,SECTOR-6-BADHURGARH JHAJJAR HARYANA-124507, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO YAMINI DHAWAN

0040780368-2

I,Vineeta Misra Chitranshi,D/o Ashok Kumar Misra,R/o Flat No.704,Tower-8,Valley-View Estate,Gurgaon Faridabad-Road, Gurgaon(Haryana)-122003,have changed my name to Vineeta Misra.

0040780368-3

I,Vinay Goyal,S/o Late Prakash Chand Goel,R/o-17/16,Shakti Nagar,Delhi-110007,that my actual name is Vinay Goyal, I also known as Vinay Goel & Vinay Kumar Goyal & Vinay Kumar Goel. That above names belongs to one and same-person.

0040780271-5

I,Vijay Singh,S/o Ramesh Chander R/o,H.No.36,Village-Amberhai, Dwarka,Sector-19,New Delhi-110075,have changed my minor son's name Viren to Viren Malik. Aged-9-years.

0040780371-5

I,VIKAS KUMAR MITTAL,S/O LATE SHIV JYOTI KUMAR MITTAL,R/o,II-A/291,First Floor,Rachna Society,Vaishali, Ghaziabad(UP)-201019,have changed my name to VIKKAS MITTAL,for all,future purposes.

0040780272-3

I,Sunita Suman alias Sunita Gupta,D/o,Soni Lal Suman W/o,Vaibhav Gupta,R/o-B-1/212, Delhi-Government officers-Flat,Type-4,Shalimar Bagh(Haidarpur) Delhi-110088,have changed my name to Sunita Gupta

0040780371-4

I,Sonia Tiwari,spouse of,Pravesh Kumar Tiwari,resident of 6/201, Tejas Enclave,Vayu Sena Vatika,Air-Force Station Sohna-Road, Gurugram, Haryana-122001,have changed my Name from Sonia Tiwari to Soniya Tiwari,vide-Affidavit dated-22/02/2025.

0040780263-10

I, Sanjeev Kumar Rawal S/o Om Parkash Rawal,R/o-B-1/19-A, Paschim Vihar New Delhi-110063,have charged my name to Sanjeev Rawal.

0040780366-7

I, Sanjiv Manohar Lal Sindwani S/o-Manohar Lal Sindhwani,House no-1062,sector-19,Faridabad Haryana-121002,Changed my name to Sanjiv Kumar Sindhwani.

0040780263-1

I, SHEETAL NANDA,W/O VIKAS NANDA,R/O,FLAT,NO-A-804, KRISHNA APO SAPPHIRE, VAIBHAV KHAND, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHEETAL GULATI,FOR ALL PURPOSES

0040780271-1

I, SHWETA WADHWA,W/O JATIN WADHWA,R/O,603,STELLER MI LEGACY,SECTOR ZETA-1,GH-01, SECTOR SITE C EXT RD,SAKIPUR, Gautam Budh Nagar,Uttar Pradesh -201306,have changed my name to SHWETA MALIK.

0040780272-4

I, SANDEEP, S/o MOHAN LAL, ADD:62, GHARMA PATTI, MANDKOLA (217)PALWAL, HARYANA, 121102, changed my name to SANDEEP DAGAR.

0040780370-5

I, SACHIDA NAND,S/O-LATE SHRI PREM LAL,R/O-RC-639,PRATAP VIHAR,KHORA-COLONY, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH 201039,THAT BY MISTAKE MY NAME "SATISH" MENTIONED IN MY SON BIRTH CERTIFICATE THAT THE ACTUAL AND CORRECT NAME IS SACHIDA NAND MENTIONED IN AADHAR CARD,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSE,"SACHIDA NAND and SATISH" BOTH NAME IS SAME PERSON.

0040780271-3

I, Indu w/o-Shakti Singh Tomar,r/o 5C-14,2nd flr NH-5 NIT,Faridabad Haryana-1210001,have change my name after marriage Indu Chaudhary. Permanently

0040780366-3

I, Ruchi Goel,W/o Vinay Goyal,R/o 17/16,Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007,that my actual name is Ruchi Goel,I also known as Ruchi Goyal. That both names belongs to one and same-person.

0040780271-6

I, Rubina Banu,W/O-Rais Ahmed Khan,H-118/473,2nd Floor,Batla House Jamia-Nagar,Okhla ND-110025,have changed my name to Rubina Bano,for all,future purpose

0040780370-3

I, Richa Matharu w/o Jasvinder Singh R/o F-93, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Richa.

0040780371-1

I, Ramesh Kumar Bajaj,S/o Hari Chand,R/o,H.No.-14,Vasant-Vihar Link Road,Kapurthala-144601 (Punjab),have changed my name to Ramesh Bajaj.

0040780368-5

I, PERMOD SINGH S/O RAVI SINGH R/o-437/10, SAURABH VIHAR,BADARPUR,DELHI-110044 have changed my name to PRAMOD SINGH.

0040780271-1

I, hitherto known as MANOJ MOHAN PILLAI,Son of,Shri MOHANAN PILLAI,residing at 270/5,266),KAMALASREE, MANAPPALLY NORTH, MANAPPALLY,PO-KOLLAM, KARUNAGAPALLY,KERALA-69571,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANOJM.

0040780272-5

I, Panja Mangat,D/o Late Sh,Surijeet Singh Narang,R/o B-7/11,Rajouri Garden,New-Delhi declare that Panja Mangat and Panja Narang both names are one and same-person.

0040780370-1

I,Nitesh Kumar Sharma,S/o Vijay Sharma,R/o,Flat-312,Golf-Vista Apartment,Scotor Alpha-2, Greater Noida,Gautam-Budh Nagar,Uttar Pradesh-201310,have changed my name to Nitesh Kumar,for all purpose .

0040780366-6

I,INRALEE NAGAJAN BHUTIYA W/O-RAM PRAKASH CHOURHARY,R/o,PLTN-01,S.F.K.BLOCK,SEEMANT VIHAR,KAUSHAMBI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201010,have changed my name to INRALI CHOURHAYA.

0040780365-5

I,Mukesh,S/o Bhim Singh,R/o Village Sankhol,Tehsil Bahadurgarh Distt-Jhajjar (Haryana),have changed my name to Mukesh Kumar.

0040780366-6

I,MOHAMMAD ASLAM,S/o NASEERUDDIN,R/o-985,HAVELI BAKHTAWAR KHAN GALI MADARSE WALI JAMA MASJID,DELHI-6,HAVE CHANGED MY DAUGHTER NAME IS HURYA TO HURIYA.

0040780366-1

I,ARVIND,S/o MOHAN LAL, ADD :62,MANDKOLA, HATHIN, PALWAL,HARYANA 121102,Changed my name to ARVIND DAGAR.

0040780366-6

I,Jyoti W/o Deepak Rana,R/o 320, Village Gherwa, Nangloi Jat, North,West Delhi-110024 have changed my name to DIVYA KAPOOL,for all purposes.

0040780261-1

I,BAHARAT BHUSHAN ARORA,S/O HAR BHAGWAN ARORA,R/O HNO.192,BHARAT-NAGAR ASHOK VIHAR PHASE-4,ASHOK VIHAR,DELHI-110052,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BHARAT BHUSHAN.

0040780370-2

I,ARVIND,S/o MOHAN LAL, ADD :62,MANDKOLA, HATHIN, PALWAL,HARYANA 121102,Changed my name to ARVIND DAGAR.

0040780366-6

I, Jyoti Mishra,S/o Sh. Kunne R/o H.O-No.531-A, Gali-No.5,Vijay Park,Maujpur,Delhi-110053,inform that Lalit Mishra & Lalit Mishra,both names are same person.

0040780369-2

I,LALIT KUMAR,S/o OM PRAKASH AGGARWAL,R/o-C7/5A,2ND FLOOR,MODEL TOWN-III,Dr.Mukherjee-Nagar,Delhi-110093,have changed my name to LALIT KUMAR GOYAL,for all purposes.

0040780369-9

I,SANJAY ADLAKHA S/O MADAN LAL/R/O-H.NO-426,STREET NO-6,MADAN PURI GURGAON HARYANA-122001,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANJAY KUMAR.

0040780368-1

I,Sonia Tiwari,spouse of,Pravesh Kumar Tiwari,resident of 6/201, Tejas Enclave,Vayu Sena Vatika,Air-Force Station Sohna-Road, Gurugram, Haryana-122001,have changed my Name from Sonia Tiwari to Soniya Tiwari,vide-Affidavit dated-22/02/2025.

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I, Sanjeev Kumar Rawal S/o Om Parkash Rawal,R/o-19/19-A, Paschim Vihar New Delhi-110063,have charged my name to Sanjeev Rawal.

0040780366-7

I, Sanjiv Manohar Lal Sindhwani S/o-Manohar Lal Sindhwani,House no-1062,sector-19,Faridabad Haryana-121002,Changed my name to Sanjiv Kumar Sindhwani.</

Govt. of Bihar

	BIHAR STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO. LTD., PATNA (A subsidiary company of Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd., Patna) CIN- U74110BR2012SC018889 Head Office, Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna- 800021 Email address- operation.main@bptcl.bihar.gov.in. Mob. No. 7763817721 Website- www.bptcl.in
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Tender Notice (NIT) No.- 25/PR-BSPCL/2025
(Through e-procurement mode only -www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Online-Tenders are invited by Chief Engineer (O&M) for the following:-

Description of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D. (Rs.)	Cost of B.O.Q. (Non-Refundable) (Rs.)	Bid Processing Fee(Rs.)	Completion period
Design, manufacture, assembly, testing, supply/delivery of 318 sets of Combo unit of 9 Ltr. of water mist and compressed air foam extinguisher with self contained breathing apparatus.	24 Cr	48,00,075	11,800	5900	06(Six) Months from NOA.
Start date of Online Sale of Bid Documents/ request of Bid/ Bid Documents			From 11:00 Hrs. of 02.04.2025		
Date of Pre-bid meeting			On 11:00 Hrs. of 07.04.2025		
Last date of Online Submission of bid along with Tender Cost & processing fee			Up to 16:00 Hrs. of 23.04.2025		
Last date of submission of EMD and hard copy of receipt of 8SEDL processing fee & tender cost			Upto 17:00 Hrs. of 24.04.2025		
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial Bid (Part-I)			After 16:00 Hrs. of 25.04.2025		
Date of opening of price part			To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)		

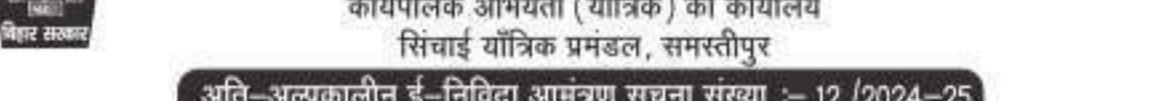
"विवादों के शिखादन के लिए लोक अदालत का लागू उत्तम प्रसरण सहमति से न्यायिक निर्णय प्राप्त करें समय एवं तर्ज की बचत करें।"

This information is available on www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

PR. No. 22180 (B & C) 2024-25

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

Chief Engineer (O&M)

**जल संसाधन विभाग**

कार्यपालक अधिकारी (योग्यिक) का कार्यालय

सिंचाई योग्य प्रमङ्गल, समरस्तीपुर

अति-अत्यकालीन इं-निवादा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 12/2024-25

(केवल ई-टेन्डर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट) www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

1. कार्य का विवरण :-

मुफ्त संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रुपये में)	परियाप्त विषय का मूल्य (प्रत्यावर्तीय)	बेट्टन की देवी वीड़ प्रोसेसिंग फी (प्रत्यावर्तीय)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	Design, Drawing, Supply, Fabrication, Fixing & Erection of Four Vent AFS gate at 64.61km of Hajipur-Wajidpur left emb. Of Ganga river under FCD Dalsingsarai, Dist-Samastipur (Agenda no.-220/249/2025)	31.56	63200.00	5000.00	598.00	15.05.25

2. निवादा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि :- दिनांक 17.03.2025

3. निवादा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय

- दिनांक 28.03.2025 (शुक्रवार) से 01.04.2025(मंगलवार) 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। सिंचाई वेबसाइट पर (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

4. तकनीकी बीड़ खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

- दिनांक 02.04.2025 (बुधवार) समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न तक सिंचाई वेबसाइट पर (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

5. वित्तीय बीड़ खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

- तकनीकी बीड़ स्टीकूटि के प्रयोग संक्षेप की जायेगी। सिंचाई वेबसाइट पर (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

6. निवादा खोलने का रथान

- (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर।

7. निवादा की पैमाना अवधि

(निवादा प्राप्ति की अतिम तिथि से)

8. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

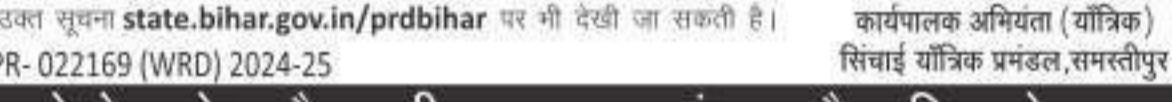
- 9199762857

9. अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें

- (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकती है। कार्यपालक अधिकारी (योग्यिक) सिंचाई योग्य प्रमङ्गल, समरस्तीपुर

उक्त सूचना [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) पर भी देखी जा सकती है। PR-022169 (WRD) 2024-25

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

**परियोजना विवेदिका का कार्यालय बुड़ों, परिचम चम्पाराण, बैतिया**

पानी टंकी, बाजार समीप परिवर, बैतिया, पिन-845438

dudawestchamparan@gmail.com

निवादा आमंत्रण सूचना सं-03/2024-25 (ई-टेन्डरिंग द्वारा www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

1. विवादा आमंत्रण दाता का नाम एवं पता

- परियोजना विवेदिका बुड़ों, परिचम चम्पाराण, बैतिया।

2. निवादा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि

- दिनांक 18.03.2025

3. निवादा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय

- दिनांक 28.03.2025 (शुक्रवार) से 01.04.2025(मंगलवार) 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

4. तकनीकी बीड़ खोलने की तिथि / समय

- दिनांक 02.04.2025 (बुधवार) समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न तक सिंचाई वेबसाइट पर (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

5. वित्तीय बीड़ खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

- तकनीकी बीड़ स्टीकूटि के प्रयोग संक्षेप की जायेगी। सिंचाई वेबसाइट पर (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

6. निवादा खोलने का रथान

- (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर।

7. निवादा की पैमाना अवधि

(निवादा प्राप्ति की अतिम तिथि से)

8. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

- 9199762857

9. अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें

- (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकती है। परियोजना विवेदिका कार्यालय, बैतिया, परिचम चम्पाराण, पानी टंकी, बाजार समीप परिवर, बैतिया, पिन-845438)

10. कार्य का विवरण:-

परियोजना विवेदिका का कार्यालय बुड़ों, परिचम चम्पाराण, बैतिया।

पानी टंकी, बाजार समीप परिवर, बैतिया, पिन-845438 dudawestchamparan@gmail.com

निवादा आमंत्रण सूचना सं-03/2024-25 (ई-टेन्डरिंग द्वारा www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

1. विवादा आमंत्रण दाता का नाम एवं पता

- परियोजना विवेदिका बुड़ों, परिचम चम्पाराण, बैतिया।

2. निवादा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि

- दिनांक 18.03.2025

3. निवादा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय

- दिनांक 28.03.2025 (शुक्रवार) से 01.04.2025(मंगलवार) 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

4. तकनीकी बीड़ खोलने की तिथि / समय

- दिनांक 02.04.2025 (बुधवार) समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न तक सिंचाई वेबसाइट पर (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

5. वित्तीय बीड़ खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

- तकनीकी बीड़ स्टीकूटि के प्रयोग संक्षेप की जायेगी। सिंचाई वेबसाइट पर (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

6. निवादा खोलने का रथान

- (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर।

7. निवादा की पैमाना अवधि

(निवादा प्राप्ति की अतिम तिथि से)